THE OFFICIAL MARVEL NEWS MAGAZINE!
MARVEL 25TH ANNIVERSARY
MATERNI
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MARVEL AGE
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new universe

Stan Lee presents

MARVEL AGE®

SALICRUP'S SECTION

The New Universe is here! After months of rumors and speculation, the big event has finally arrived! Comic book history is in the making right now and you are there! Pretty neat, huh?

If you picked up MARVEL AGE ANNUAL #2, you got a hint at the wondrous characters and concepts that awaited you, but now the books are out and the suspense is over! This month, MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE takes you behind the scenes of the creation of The New Universe as we celebrate Marvel's twenty-fifth anniversary. We hope you enjoy this month's cover story, but more importantly we hope you let us know what you think of the New Universe. Just drop us a line at the usual address and we'll run your comments in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE in issue #47! We're counting on you to let us know how we're doing, so don't let us down!

Moving right along, we decided to shine the MARVEL AGE spotlight on the TRANSFORMERS and check out what was happening with everyone's favorite shape-changing robots. A lot, it turns out. More than meets the eyes, one is tempted to say. So if you're a fan of the forever-fighting forces from Cybertron you won't want to miss the big announcements that start on page 12!

So until next time, remember that there's only one magazine that gives you the *real* inside story about everything happening at Marvel month after month—MARVEL AGE! Accept no substitutes!

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Adam Philips
Assistant Editor

Barbara Johnston
Designer

Dwight Jon Zimmerman
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Mutant Reporter

Fred Hembeck
Sage of Marvel Age

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Between Universes

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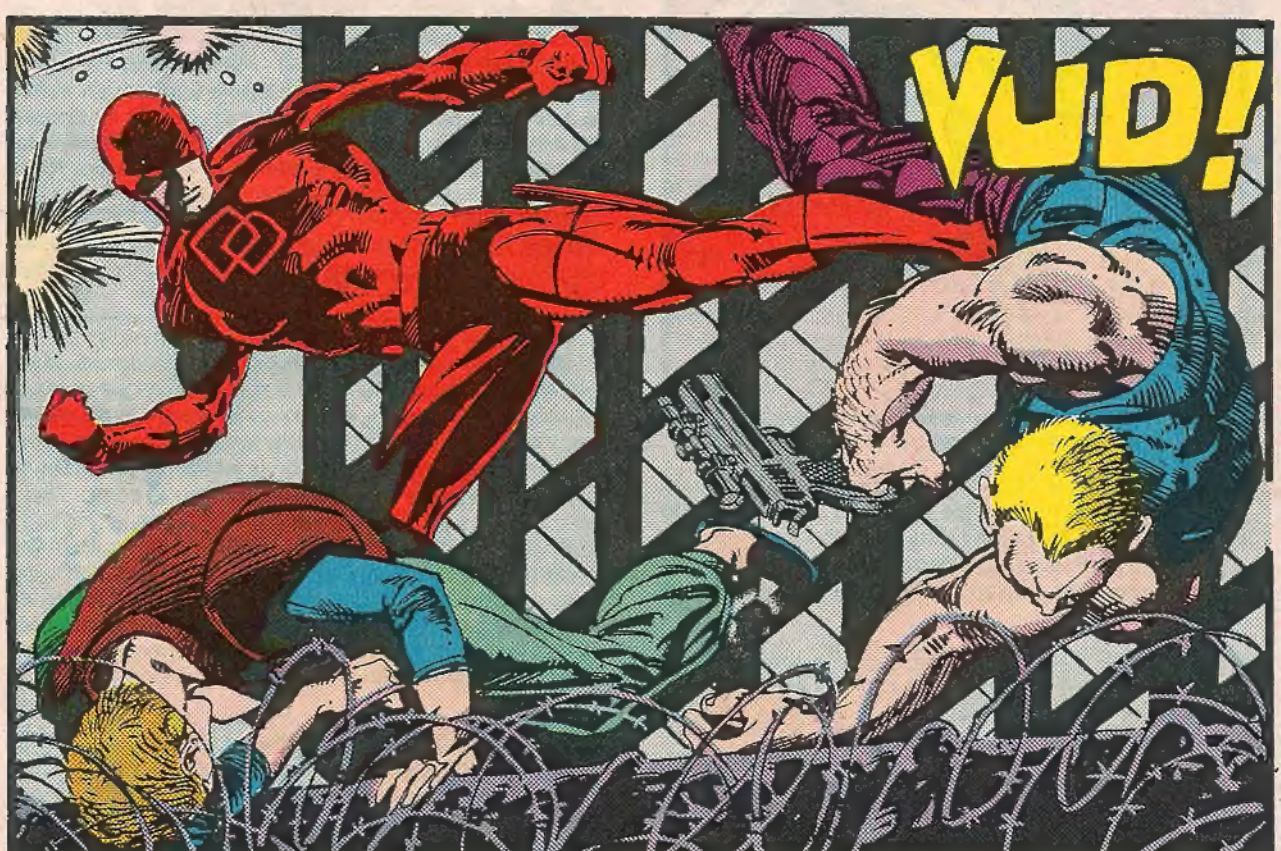
MARVEL COMING ATTRACTIONS

Here is a complete checklist of what's happening in all the Marvel, Epic, Star and New Universe titles bearing a **December** cover date.

A **Limited Series** is a title which will only run for a specific number of issues.
A **Graphic Novel** is a trade paperback-sized edition.
A **Digest** is a small paperback-sized edition.
A **Direct Sales** title is available only at selected outlets.
Shipping Date refers to the date the comics leave the printer.

The New Universe is here! **The Morlocks** massacre alters the Marvel Universe forever! The full story is found in **X-MEN, THE NEW MUTANTS, X-FACTOR, THOR** *and* **POWER PACK!** Plus: a whole passel of new titles, some in a brand new format!

That's just a hint of the excitement you can expect next month! Don't take a chance of missing out on anything. Tell your favorite comics shop owner to reserve the titles you want, today!



Check out Barry Windsor-Smith's great art on DAREDEVIL—on sale now!

Titles Shipping August 5
On Sale August 26

☐ **DAKOTA NORTH** #4—How do you free someone when he doesn't even know he's a prisoner? Gutsy private investigator **Dakota North** finds out the hard way when she discovers that her teenage brother is in Europe—an unsuspecting captive of her enemies at Rycom! "Busman's Holiday" is written by **Martha Thomases** and drawn by **Tony Salmons**. 75¢.

☐ **DAREDEVIL** #237—An exciting new creative team takes off to continue the chronicles of Marvel's **Man Without Fear!** This time **Daredevil** faces his greatest challenge: does even he have the power to lift **Matt Murdock** out of the abyss known as New York City's Hell's Kitchen? Written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **Louis Williams** and inked by **Al Williamson**. 75¢.

☐ **G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS** #2—Total war takes on an even more terrifying twist when **the G.I. Joes** plunge into battle against Nazis, Israelis and the incredible Doomsday Machine! Featuring the Joes **Recondo, Hawk, Roadblock, Clutch, Dialtone, Airtight, Breaker, Alpine, Snowjob,** and **Lift Ticket!** "Words of Honor" is written by **Larry Hama** and drawn by **Herb Trimpe**. 75¢.

Next month—witness the coming of Strikeforce: Morituri!

☐ **HUGGA BUNCH** #2—**The Hugga Bunch** gang turns the heat on a cold-hearted **Ice King** who is determined to keep a young girl captive in his frigid Ice Palace. "Prisoner of the Magic Ice Palace" is written by **Stan Kay**, penciled by **Warren Kremer** and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher**. A Star Comic. 75¢.

☐ **PSI-FORCE** #2—In this incredible issue, **the Psi-Force** discovers that they can't trust anyone—**not** even their own government! Written by **Steve Perry**, penciled by **Mark Texeira** and inked by **Kyle Baker**. 75¢.

☐ **NIGHTMASK** #2—For the first time, **Keith (Nightmask) Remsen** and his sister **Teddy** cross into a dream on a controlled basis . . . and almost cause the death of a patient! Written by **Archie Goodwin** and penciled by **Tony Salmons**. A New Universe comic. 75¢.

☐ **WEST COAST AVENGERS** #15—Is **Tigra** a human or a cat-creature? Her traumatic quest to find her identity concludes in a tale that will permanently affect the future of the **West Coast Avengers**. Guest-starring: **Hellcat** and **the Son of Satan** himself, **Daimon Hellstrom**! "Lady or the Tigra" is written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **Al Milgrom** and inked by **Joe Sinnott**. 75¢.

☐ **MOONSHADOW** #10—**Moonshadow** finds out that you can't go home again—but friends can be found abroad at the International House of T . . . The acclaimed graphic story fantasy for adults is written by **J. Marc DeMatteis** and painted by **Jon J Muth**. An Epic Comic. Direct sales only. Hudson paper. For Mature Readers. $1.50.

☐ **STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI** #1—The challenge and responsibility of super heroism is explored like never before in this incredible series about normal men and women willing to make the ultimate self-sacrifice to save their world! The Earth of the near future has been invaded by aliens. Only one force is strong enough to confront them—**Strike-Force Morituri**! They are normal people who volunteer to become super heroes to save Earth—knowing that the transformation will ultimately kill them! Written by **Peter B. Gillis**, penciled by **Brent Anderson** and inked by **Scott Williams**. 75¢.

☐ **THE NEW MUTANTS** #46—**The New Mutants** face some hard facts about life and death in the soul-searing aftermath of the massacre in the **Morlock** tunnels. "Bloody Sunday" is written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Jackson Guice** and inked by **Kyle Baker**. 75¢.

☐ **THUNDERCATS** #7—**Lion-O's** fondest wish is realized—he can finally return to **the Thundercats'** home planet of ThunDERa! But will his return spell doom for the rest of **the Thundercats**? "Return to ThunDERa" is written by **Gerry Conway** and penciled by **Jose Delbo**. A Star Comic. 75¢.

☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN** #21—**Spider-Man** tracks the terrorists who tried to kill British **Prime Minister Thatcher** to their home turf—and that's when the trouble for **Spider-Man** *really* starts! "Ireland" is written by **David Michelinie**, penciled by **Marc Silvestri** and inked by **Kyle Baker**. 75¢.

Titles Shipping August 12
On Sale September 2

☐ **MERC** #2—Against his own better judgement, **Marc Hazard** decides to attend his son's Little League game in Queens. Unfortunately, three hired killers are in the crowd, and they don't intend to let the lives of innocents stand between them and **Merc**! "Balk" is written by **Peter David** and drawn by **Gray Morrow**. A New Universe comic. 75¢.

☐ **KICKERS, INC.** #2—When a little old lady calls in **the Kickers** to stop the robot that's wrecking her garden, the team winds up having to face street gangs, Libyan terrorists, and, of course, the robot. "There's a Robot in My Rose Garden" is written by **Tom DeFalco**, penciled by **Ron Frenz** and inked by **Sal Buscema**. A New Universe comic. 75¢.

☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT** #41—**Northstar** meets his biggest fan and finds himself doing *everything* she wants. Is it the power of love that's ensnared him, or something far worse? Plus: a new member officially joins **Alpha Flight**. "It's Not Easy Being Purple" is written by **Bill Mantlo** and penciled by **David Ross**. 75¢.

☐ **ANIMAX** #1—In the Earth of the 25th Century, total barbarism threatens to overwhelm the world! Only the incredible group that melded man, beast and machine together has the power to contain it—**Animax**! But can even this mighty band survive when their greatest leader is killed? Written by **Walter Simonson**, penciled by **Steve Purcell** and inked by **John Beatty**. A Star Comic. 75¢.

☐ **DOCTOR STRANGE** #80—**Morgana Blessing** is dying. Only **Doctor Strange** possesses the surgical and mystical skill needed to save her. But **Doc** can't! He's dying of the same thing that felled **Morgana**! Plus: wait until you see what happened to **Doc Strange's** mansion! "Don't Pay the Ferryman!" is written by **Peter B. Gillis**, penciled by **Chris Warner** and inked by **Randy Emberlin**. 75¢.

☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA** #324—With the merciless **Masters of Evil** on the rampage, the new **Whirlwind** and **Trapster** plot to deliver to the team the greatest prize of all—**Captain America's** head! "Speed Trap" is written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Paul Neary** and inked by **John Beatty**. 75¢.

☐ **GROO THE WANDERER** #22—The political phrase "power behind the throne" assumes a **Groo**-ful meaning when **Groo**, the world's klutziest barbarian, enters the labyrinthine realm of political intrigue. Drawn by **Sergio Aragones** and catered by **Mark Evanier**. An Epic Comic. 75¢.

☐ **HEATHCLIFF** #13—It looks as if **Heathcliff** is going to have all nine of his feline lives scared out of him when he and **Iggy** stumble into a haunted movie theater and land in the middle of a real-life horror show courtesy of two outlandish ghosts. "Fright Night at the Bijou" is written by **Angelo DeCesare**, penciled by **Warren Kremer** and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher**. A Star Comic. 75¢

☐ **LABYRINTH (Limited Series)** # . **Sara's** quest to rescue her baby brother from the trolls continues in this stunning adaptation of the **Jim Henson** fantasy movie starring **David Bowie**. Written by **Sid Jacobson**, drawn by **John Buscema** and **Romeo Tanghal**. 75¢

☐ **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #283—**Flash (Hobgoblin) Thompson** is on the loose! **Spidey** is out to get him. And **Titania**, the girder-twisting girl-friend of **the Absorbing Man**, is out to get **Spidey**! "With Foes Like These" features the wildest chase scenes of the month! Written by **Tom DeFalco**, penciled by **Ron Frenz** and inked by **Brett Breeding**. 75¢.

☐ **THE TRANSFORMERS MOVIE (Limited Series)** #1—The noble **Autobots** square off against the evil **Decepticons** in the ultimate battle of **the Transformers** in this breath-taking adaptation of the great full-length animation feature. Written by **Ralph Macchio**, penciled by **Don Perlin** and inked by **Ian Akin** and **Brian Garvey**. 75¢.

☐ **POWER PACK** #27—**Power Pack** takes off to help protect their **Morlock** friends from the merciless **Marauders**! Trouble is, they might do more harm than good, because none of them have their original powers! A special tie-in with **X-MEN** #212 and **X-FACTOR** #11. "Massacre" is written by **Louise Simonson** and penciled by **Jon Bogdanove**. 75¢.

☐ **STAR COMICS DIGEST** #1—Miss out on the excitement the first time around? Now's your chance to discover how Star Comics became such a star at Marvel! It's a *new* digest magazine that re-presents all the classic Star stories! This debut kicks off with the rollicking tales from **HEATHCLIFF** #1, **MUPPET BABIES** #1, **EWOKS** # and **TOP DOG** #1! 64 pages. No ads! A Star Magazine 50.

☐ **AMAZING HIGH ADVENTURE** #5—New talent combines with old pros to produce some of the most exciting short stories in comics history. Writer **Mike Baron** and English artist **John Ridgeway** tell a post World War I tale of barnstormer pilots who take on the mob in "The Sky Hook." Writer **Mike Baron**, new penciler **Tomosina Cawthorn Artis** and inker **John Beatty** present a stunning interpretation of the famous Biblical confrontation between a giant and the future King of Israel in "David and Goliath." Writer **Bill Mantlo**, penciler **Steve Purcell** and inker **Del Barras** reveal what happens when a Holy uprising engulfs British-ruled India in "Whom the Gods would Destroy." And writer/artist **Ken Steacy** crafts a soaring yarn about experimental aircraft, spies and childhood trauma in "My Brother's Keeper." Direct sales only. Baxter paper. $2.00.

☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN** #130—A caravan's raid in the Turanian steppes brings **Conan** and his kozaki raiders expected wealth and unexpected temptation when, in addition to gold and gems, they capture a girl—the stunning **Princess Serena**, promised bride to the King of Turan! Her presence incites jealousy, hatred, betrayal and a war that threatens to make **Conan** its first victim in "Reavers of the Steppes" written by **Don Kraar** and drawn by **Dave Simons**. A Marvel Magazine. $1.50.

Titles Shipping August 19
On Sale September 9

☐ **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** #45—This issue features looks at lots of new titles—**MEPHISTO** and **STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI**, and, from Star Comics, **THE DEFENDERS OF THE EARTH** and **THE INHUMANOIDS**! Plus, a look at the brand new **DRACULA** Graphic Novel and the **X-MEN INDEX**, Stan's Soapbox, Hembeck's page, and your letters! What more could you ask for? Direct Sales only. 50¢.

☐ **THE AVENGERS** #274—**The Masters of Evil** have almost reached their goal. They have defeated all **the Avengers** except **the Wasp**! How can **the Wasp** stop them when even **Hercules** failed? "Divided We Fall" is written by **Roger Stern**, penciled by **John Buscema** and inked by **Tom Palmer**. 75¢.

☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN** #189—The boy **Conan** would have made king is dead! Now the factions that committed the murder must face **Conan's** vengeance! Meanwhile, **Conan's** diabolical enemy, **the Devourer of Souls**, continues to weave his sinister plot to fatally trap **Conan**. "Rites of Inquisition" is written by **Jim Owsley**, penciled by **John Buscema** and inked by **Ernie Chan**. 75¢.

☐ **D.P. 7** #2—The seven displaced paranormals discover that the only way to run away when you're broke is to take what you need—no matter the cost! Especially when **the AGENCY's Headhunter** is on your trail! "Runaways" is written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Paul Ryan** and inked by **Romeo Tanghal**. A New Universe comic. 75¢.

☐ **JUSTICE** #2—**The Hounds** are on the hunt for **Justice**. Is his own search for the beings who trapped him on this world keeping him too busy to see them coming? Written by **Archie Goodwin** and penciled by **Geoff Isherwood**. A New Universe comic. 75¢.

☐ **MARVEL SAGA** #13—The linear history of the Marvel Universe reveals, for the first time in one place, the complete origin of **Daredevil**—featuring **Matt Murdock's** first meeting with **Elektra**! Plus: the first appearance of **Spider-Man's** greatest foe—**the Green Goblin**; **Spidey's** first battle with **the Incredible Hulk**; **the Avengers'** first encounter with the original **Baron Zemo**, and his original **Masters of Evil**, **the X-Men's** fiercest battle with **Magneto's** original **Brotherhood of Evil Mutants**, as both teams try to recruit the **Savage Sub-Mariner**! Plus: **The Hulk** fights **the Fantastic Four** and **the Avengers** as the two teams join forces for the first time; **Doctor Octopus** returns to tangle with **Spidey**; and we learn the shocking secret from the dark past of **Spidey's** first girlfriend, **Betty Brant**! Also: the origin of **the Black Widow**, the first appearances of **the Enchantress** and **the Executioner**, and much more! Written by **Peter Sanderson**, based on stories by **Stan Lee**, **Frank Miller** and others. Art by **Jack Kirby**, **Steve Ditko**, **Frank Miller**, **Klaus Janson** and others. Cover by **Keith Pollard** and **Klaus Janson**. $1.00.

It's Elektra versus S.H.I.E.L.D. in the Epic Limited Series!

☐ **G.I. JOE #54—The G.I. Joe** headquarters is destroyed. Are the Joes' enemies, **Destro** and **Cobra Commander**, dead as well? Before anyone has time to find out, **Serpentor** launches a new **Cobra** scheme to tip the balance of world power towards nation-destroying terror! "Launch Base" is written by **Larry Hama**, penciled by **Ron Whigham** and inked by **Andy Mushynsky**. 75¢.

☐ **HOWARD THE DUCK (Limited Series) #1—Howard** takes on Hollywood—and neither will ever be the same again! The adaptation of the wild **George Lucas** live-action movie is written by **Danny Fingeroth** and drawn by **Kyle Baker**. 75¢.

☐ **THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS HANDBOOK TO THE TRANSFORMERS UNIVERSE (Limited Series) #1**—At last, for **Transformers** fans everywhere, a concise, and complete reference to all the **Transformer** heroes and villains is here! Powers, personality, history and illustrations of every **Transformer** robot that's ever appeared in the series, and some that haven't! Written by **Bob Budiansky**. $1.25.

☐ **THE INCREDIBLE HULK #326**—Who is this second **Hulk**, and why is he on a rampage? Plus: **Thunderbolt Ross** loses his mind—literally! Written by **Al Milgrom**, penciled by **Steve Geiger** and inked by **Dennis Janke**. 75¢.

☐ **MARVEL TALES #194**—"Fire and Ice" part II. **Spider-Man** and **the Wasp** must stop the incredible **Equinox** before it's too late! Reprinting the classic adventure from **MARVEL TEAM-UP #59**, written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **John Byrne** and inked by **Dave Hunt**. 75¢.

☐ **THE NAM #1**—Viet Nam the way it really was! Join **Ed Marks** and the men of the 23rd Infantry as they learn to survive in the steaming jungles of Southeast Asia. "First Patrol" is written by **Doug Murray**, penciled by **Mike Golden** and inked by **Armando Gil**. 75¢.

☐ **ELEKTRA (Limited Series) #3—S.H.I.E.L.D.** has captured **Elektra**. The question now: is even this intelligence agency powerful enough to keep her? "Rough Cut" is written by **Frank Miller** and painted by **Bill Sienkiewicz**. An Epic Comic. Hudson paper. Direct sales only. For Mature Readers. $1.50.

☐ **SOLARMAN #1—Stan Lee** himself has written this one-shot adaptation of the stirring new animation adventure series debuting this fall. A mysterious, merciless being is stealing the energy from the suns of our galaxy. The only person who can stop him is a teen-age boy who receives an incredible gift from the stars! Penciled by **Jim Mooney** and inked by **Dennis Janke**. 32 pages. No ads. $1.00.

☐ **X-MEN #272**—Is the aftermath of the massacre in the **Morlock** tunnels the setting for a whole new slaughter? It might just be, because **Storm** is fighting **Callisto** and **Wolverine** is battling **Sabretooth**! Written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Rick Leonardi** and inked by **Dan Green**. 75¢.

Titles Shipping August 26
On Sale September 16

☐ **DROIDS #5—R2-D2's** and **C-3PO's** greatest fears are realized when they are separated, sold to different masters and forced to become each other's enemies! "Separated" is written by **George Caragonne**, penciled by **John Romita, Sr.** and inked by **Al Williamson**. A Star Comic. 75¢.

☐ **ELFQUEST #17**—If the elves in the mysterious Blue Mountain are the legendary **High Ones**, then why do they seek to enslave **Cutter** and his **Wolfriders**? Written by **Wendy** and **Richard Pini** and drawn by **Wendy Pini**. An Epic Comic. 75¢

☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #297—John Buscema** returns as penciler and his brother, **Sal**, debuts as the **FF's** new inker! Now, with **the Thing** back, will there be a **Fantastic *Five***? Or will the showdown between **Overlord** and his brother destroy even that possibility—and the existence of Earth as well? "Set the Controls to the Heart of the Sun" is written by **Roger Stern**, penciled by **John Buscema** and inked by **Sal Buscema** 75¢.

☐ **CLASSIC X-MEN #4**—With **Thunderbird** dead, what will **the New X-Men** do now? "Night of the Demon" reprinted from **X-MEN #96**, is written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Dave Cockrum** and inked by **Sam Grainger**. Plus: **Nightcrawler** learns a lesson about accepting himself as a mutant, with **Wolverine's** help. "The Big Dare" is written by **Chris Claremont** and drawn by **John Bolton**. 32 pages. No ads. $1.00.

☐ **THE OFFICIAL MARVEL HANDBOOK TO THE G.I. JOE UNIVERSE (Limited Series) #2**—Every **Joe** and enemy **the Joes** have faced is here in the ultimate reference series on America's greatest anti-terrorist strike force! This series is so full of facts, history and illustrations that everyone will be impressed! Researched by **Fred Foster**, written by **Larry Hama**. Cover by **Herb Trimpe** and interior illustrations penciled by **Joe Del Beato** and inked by **Ian Akin** and **Brian Garvey**. $1.25.

☐ **ALIEN LEGION #16**—A new **Legionnaire** joins **the Nomad Squadron** and helps **Zeerod** face his twilight years with grace and dignity in the middle of an outer world firefight. Written by **Alan Zelenetz**, penciled by **Larry Stroman** and inked by **Randy Emberlin**. An Epic Comic Direct sales only. Baxter paper. $1.50.

☐ **PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #121**—**Peter Parker** finds a baby lying in a garbage can and suddenly finds himself caught up in a bizarre custody battle between the child's parents. Bizarre because the baby's father is **the Marauder**! "Father's Night Out" is written by **Peter David**, penciled by **Rich Buckler** and inked by **Bob McLeod**. 75¢.

☐ **POPPLES #1**—Pop go the Popples in this wild debut of the most pandemonius playmates ever to pop out of a pouch! An action-packed spy chase suddenly becomes side-splittingly outrageous when the crazy, cuddly **Popples** horn in on the hunt in "Pop Go the Spies" written by **Stan Kay**, penciled by **John Costanza** and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher**. A Star Comic. 75¢.

☐ **THOR #374**—**Thor** dashes into **the Morlock** tunnels to save the life of **X-Factor's Angel**. In so doing, he encounters **Hela**, the goddess of death, and learns at last the nature—and devastating consequences—of the gift she's given him! A crossover with **X-FACTOR #11**. Written by **Walter Simonson** and drawn by **Sal Buscema**. 75¢.

☐ **TOP DOG #11**—**Top Dog** has a brother, and this mutt is one **Dirty Dog**! In fact, **Dirty Dog** is the mad dog of a genius who is out to conquer the world and plans to use his brother, **Top Dog**, to clinch it! "The Return of Dirty Dog" is written by **Dave Manak**, penciled by **Warren Kremer** and inked by **John D'Agostino**. A Star Comic. 75¢.

☐ **THE TRANSFORMERS #23**—**The Decepticon** Battlechargers, **Runabout** and **Runamuck**, take off on a vandalizing rampage that threatens to ruin Mount Rushmore, the Statue of Liberty and other great landmarks! But **the Autobots** are doing nothing to stop them! Why? "Decepticon Graffiti" is written by **Bob Budiansky**, penciled by **Don Perlin** and inked by **Ian Akin** and **Brian Garvey**. 75¢.

☐ **X-FACTOR #11**—In the aftermath of the massacre, the surviving **Morlocks** need help and a refuge. **X-Factor** freely gives it. But what happens when there are too many refugees for them to handle? And, as if those weren't problems enough, how will **Angel** react when he learns he can never fly again? Written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **Walter Simonson** and inked by **Bob Wiacek**. 75¢.

☐ **SPITFIRE #3**—While **Jenny** prepares to take **Krotze** on toe to toe, **the Troubleshooters** are on the loose, trying to keep the Spitfire armor away from practically everybody! Written by **Gerry Conway**, penciled by **Herb Trimpe** and inked by **Joe Sinnott**. A New Universe comic. 75¢.

☐ **STAR BRAND #3**—When a foreign dictator discovers that **Kenneth Connell** possesses the Star Brand, the world had better watch out! The dictator will stop at nothing in his quest for the most dangerous weapon in the universe! Written by **Jim Shooter**, penciled by **Alex Saviuk** and inked by **Al Williamson**. A New Universe comic. 75¢.

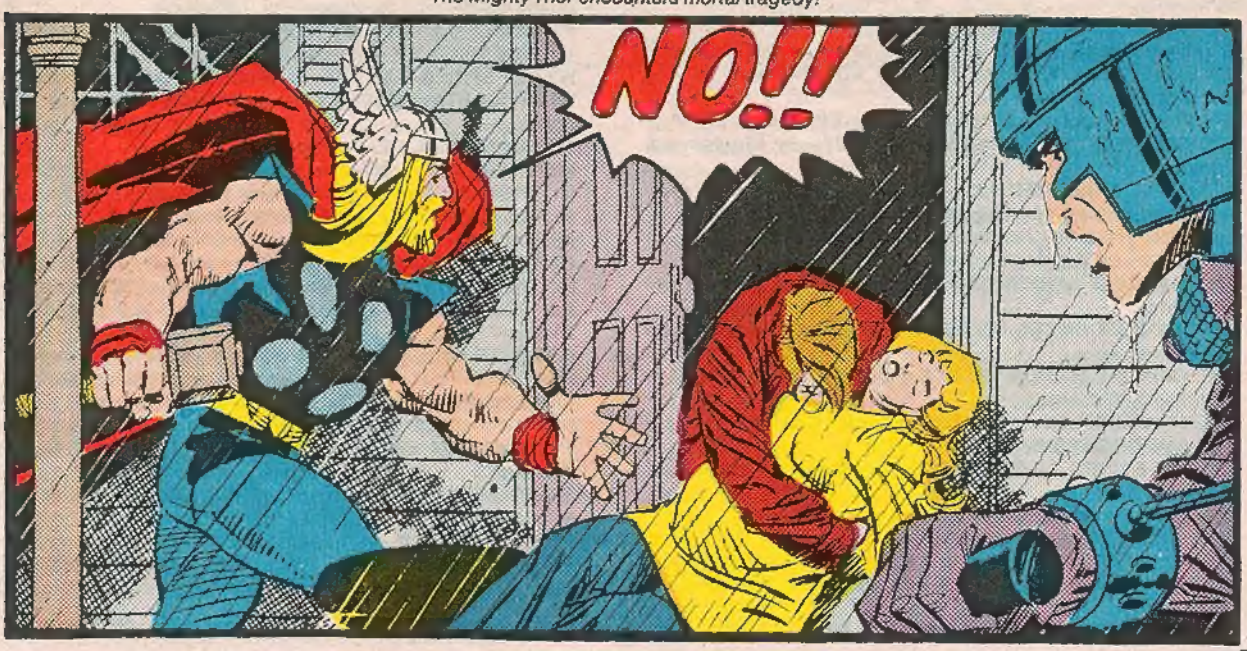
☐ **G.I. JOE DIGEST #1**—For **G.I. Joe** fans who missed out the first time around, and for everyone who likes his stories fast-paced and full of action, Marvel is re-presenting the classic **G.I. JOE** tales in a whole new digest-sized package! Reprinting the stories from **G.I. JOE #1, 2 and 3** written by **Larry Hama** and drawn by **Herb Trimpe**. 64 pages. $1.50.

☐ **IRON MAN #213**—If you thought the old **Dominic Fortune** was something, wait until you see the *new* **Dominic Fortune**! Plus: the mystery of **Sabbath**—why must the truth stay hidden? Written by **Danny Fingeroth**, penciled by **Alex Saviuk** and inked by **Sam de la Rosa**. 75¢.

☐ **THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS HANDBOOK TO THE MARVEL UNIVERSE DELUXE EDITION #13**—Heroes and villains, specifications and history, crammed with text and loaded with illustrations! It's everything you ever wanted to know about the characters in the Marvel Universe, and more! Written by **Peter Sanderson** and **Mark Gruenwald**. Drawn by the top artists at Marvel. Inked by **Joe Rubinstein**. 64 pages. No ads. $1.50.

☐ **STEELGRIP STARKEY (Limited Series) #4**—Someone is mining on the Moon and **Globelock**, the corporation that hates **Steelgrip**, actually hires **Steelgrip Starkey** to find out who is behind the mining! Introducing **Steelgrip's** arch-rival, **Iron Arm Gantry**. Written by **Alan Weiss**, penciled by **Val Mayerik** and inked by **Jim Sherman**. An Epic Comic. Direct sales only. Baxter paper. $1.50.

The Mighty Thor encounters mortal tragedy!



Titles Shipping September

CLOAK AND DAGGER #10—by Mantlo, Blevins and Austin.
DAREDEVIL #238—by Englehart, Williams, and Williamson.
DEFENDERS OF THE EARTH #1—by Lee, Saviuk and Fredericks.
MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE #5—by Carlin, Wilson and Janke.
STRIKE FORCE MORITURI #2—by Gillis, Anderson and Williams.
THE NEW MUTANTS #47—by Claremont, Guice and Baker.
NIGHT MASK #3—by Goodwin and Salmons.
PETER PORKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-HAM #13—by Mellor and Albelo.
PSI-FORCE #3—by Perry, Texeira and Baker.
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #22—by Michelinie, Silvestri and Baker.
WEST COAST AVENGERS #16—by Englehart, Milgrom and Sinnott.
CONAN THE KING #38—by Kraar, Hunt and Williamson.
X-MEN ANNUAL #10—by Claremont and Adams.
MEPHISTO #1—by Milgrom and J. Buscema.
SWORDS OF THE SWASHBUCKLERS #10—by Mantlo and Isherwood.
ALPHA FLIGHT #42—by Mantlo and Ross.
CAPTAIN AMERICA #325—by Gruenwald, Neary and Beatty.
CHUCK NORRIS AND HIS KARATE KOMMANDOS #1—by Duffy, Ditko and Steacy.
EWOKS #11—by Manak, Romita, Sr. and Williamson.
G.I. JOE AND THE TRANSFORMERS #1—by Higgins and Trimpe.
GROO THE WANDERER #23—by Aragones with Evanier.
KICKERS, INC. #3—by DeFalco, Frenz and S. Buscema.
LABYRINTH #3—by Jacobson and J. Buscema.
MERC #3—by David and Morrow.
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #284—by DeFalco, Frenz and Breeding.
THE TRANSFORMERS MOVIE #2—by Macchio, Perlin, Akin and Garvey.
THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE X-MEN #1—compiled by Olshevsky.
BOZZ CHRONICLES #6—by Michelinie and Blevins.
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN DIGEST #1
SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #131—by Owsley, Kwapisz and Chan.
DRACULA Graphic Novel—by Muth.
MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #46
THE AVENGERS #275—by Stern, J. Buscema and Palmer.
CONAN THE BARBARIAN #190—by Owsley, J. Buscema and Chan.
D.P. 7 #3—by Gruenwald and Ryan.
G.I. JOE #55—by Hama, Whigham and Mushynsky.
HOWARD THE DUCK #2—by Fingeroth and Baker.
THE INCREDIBLE HULK #327—by Milgrom.
JUSTICE #3
MARVEL TALES #195—by Claremont, Byrne and Hunt.
MUPPET BABIES #11—by Kay and Severin.
THE NAM #2—by Murray, Golden and Gil.
X-MEN #213—by Claremont and Davis.
THE MARVEL SAGA #14—by Sanderson.
THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS HANDBOOK TO THE TRANSFORMERS UNIVERSE #2—by Budiansky.
ELEKTRA #4—by Miller and Sienkiewicz.
MARVEL FANFARE #30
CARE BEARS #8—by Post and Edelman.
ELFQUEST #18—by W. and R. Pini.
FANTASTIC FOUR #298—by Stern, J. Buscema and S. Buscema.
THE INHUMANOIDS #1—by Sellcrup and Fry.
IRON MAN #214—by Michelinie.
PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #122—by David, Buckler and McLeod.
SPITFIRE AND THE TROUBLESHOOTERS #4—by Brown, Morelli, Trimpe and Smith.
STAR BRAND #4—by Shooter and Romita, Jr.
THOR #375—by W. Simonson and S. Buscema.
THE TRANSFORMERS #24—by Budiansky, Perlin, Akin and Garvey.
X-FACTOR #12—by L. Simonson, W. Simonson and Wiacek.
CLASSIC X-MEN #5—by Claremont, Cockrum and Bolton.
THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS HANDBOOK TO THE G.I. JOE UNIVERSE #3—by Foster, Hama, Del Beato, Akin and Garvey.
THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK TO THE MARVEL UNIVERSE DELUXE EDITION #14—by Sanderson and Gruenwald.
SAVAGE TALES #8
STEELGRIP STARKEY #5—by Weiss, Mayerik and Sherman.
THE TRANSFORMERS DIGEST #1
THE MARVEL UNIVERSE HANDBOOK TRADE PAPERBACK #1

Titles Shipping October

COMET MAN #1—by Mumy, Ferer and Jones.
DAKOTA NORTH #5—by Thomases and Salmons.
DAREDEVIL #239—by Englehart, Williams and Williamson.
G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS #3—by Hama and Trimpe.
HUGGA BUNCH #3—by Kay, Kremer and Roettcher.
STRIKEFORCE: MORITORI #3—by Gillis, Anderson and Williams.
THE NEW MUTANTS #48—by Claremont, Guice and Baker.
NIGHT MASK #4—by Goodwin and Salmons.
PSI-FORCE #4—by Perry, Texeira and Baker.
THUNDERCATS #8—by Conway, Delbo and Sinnott.
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #23—by Michelinie, Silvestri and Baker.
WEST COAST AVENGERS #17—by Englehart, Milgrom and Sinnott.
CONAN ANNUAL #10—by Owsley and Chan.
MEPHISTO #2—by Milgrom and J. Buscema.
MOONSHADOW #11—by DeMatteis and Muth.
ALPHA FLIGHT #43—by Mantlo and Ross.
ANIMAX #2—by W. Simonson, Purcell and Beatty.
CAPTAIN AMERICA #326—by Gruenwald, Neary and Beatty.
DOCTOR STRANGE #81—by Gillis, Warner and Emberlin.
G.I. JOE AND THE TRANSFORMERS #2—by Higgins and Trimpe.
GROO THE WANDERER #24—by Aragones with Evanier.
HEATHCLIFF #14—by Gallagher, Kremer and Roettcher.
KICKERS, INC. #4—by DeFalco, Frenz and Roettcher.
MERC #4—by David and Morrow.
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #285—by DeFalco, Frenz and Breeding.
THE TRANSFORMERS MOVIE #3—by Macchio, Perlin, Akin and Garvey.
POWER PACK #28—by L. Simonson and Bogdanove.
THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #1—compiled by Olshevsky.
THE FANTASTIC FOUR VS. THE X-MEN #1

The New X-Men mourn the loss of Thunderbird, in CLASSIC X-MEN!

SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #132—by **Owsley, Kwapisz** and **Chan.**
STAR COMICS DIGEST #2
MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #47
THE AVENGERS #276—by **Stern, J. Buscema** and **Palmer.**
CONAN THE BARBARIAN #191—by **Owsley, Semeiks** and **Chen.**
D.P. 7 #4—by **Gruenwald** and **Ryan.**
G.I. JOE #56—by **Hama, Whigham** and **Mushynsky.**
HOWARD THE DUCK #3—by **Fingeroth** and **Baker.**
THE INCREDIBLE HULK #328—by **Milgrom, Geiger** and **Janke.**
JUSTICE #4
MARVEL TALES #196—by **Claremont, Byrne** and **Hunt.**
THE NAM #3—by **Murray, Golden** and **Gil.**
X-MEN #214—by **Claremont** and **Romita, Jr..**
THE MARVEL SAGA #15—by **Sanderson.**
THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS HANDBOOK TO THE TRANSFORMERS UNIVERSE #3—by **Budiansky.**
ELEKTRA #5—by **Miller** and **Sienkiewicz.**
SPIDER-MAN VS. WOLVERINE #1
ALIEN LEGION Graphic Novel—by **Zelenetz, Cirocco** and **Austin.**
DROIDS #6—by **Cargonne, Romita, Sr.** and **Williamson**
ELFQUEST #19—by **W.** and **R. Pini.**
FANTASTIC FOUR #299—by **Stern, J. Buscema** and **S. Buscema.**
IRON MAN #215—by **Michelinie.**
PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #123—by **David, Buckler** and **McLeod.**
POPPLES #2—by **Kay, Costanza** and **Roettcher.**
SPITFIRE AND THE TROUBLESHOOTERS #5—by **Brown, Morelli, Trimpe** and **Sinnott.**
STAR BRAND #5—by **Shooter** and **Romita, Jr.**
TOP DOG #12—by **Manak, Kremer** and **D'Agostino.**
THOR #376—by **W. Simonson** and **S. Buscema.**
THE TRANSFORMERS #25—by **Budiansky, Perlin, Akin** and **Garvey.**
X-FACTOR #13—by **L. Simonson, W. Simonson** and **Wiacek.**
CLASSIC X-MEN #6—by **Claremont, Cockrum** and **Bolton.**
THE OFFICIAL MARVEL HANDBOOK TO THE G.I. JOE UNIVERSE #4—by **Hama, Foster, Del Beato, Akin** and **Garvey.**
ALIEN LEGION #17—by **Zelenetz, Stroman** and **Emberlin.**
G.I. JOE DIGEST #2
THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK TO THE MARVEL UNIVERSE DELUXE EDITION #15—by **Sanderson** and **Gruenwald.**
STEELGRIP STARKEY #6—by **Weiss** and **Sherman.**

NEWSWATCH

The fate of Miller and Simonson's DAREDEVIL is revealed. More Marvel-ous birthdays than you can shake a stick at! Marvel joins the fight against illiteracy. And a new face appears in the Bullpen!

ITEM: For those of you wondering if you missed the much-heralded Frank Miller and Walter Simonson team-up on DAREDEVIL, worry no more! Frank and Walter's tale of child abuse, murder, and Daredevil's ultimate battle for his sanity proved so intense and searing that the two tales will be presented together in a special one-shot volume! DAREDEVIL Editor **Ralph Macchio** is already hard at work hammering out the details. We'll keep you posted!

ITEM: Hey, have you checked with your favorite comics shop owner to see if he's all set for the celebration of Marvel's 25th Anniversary this summer? If he doesn't know what you're talking about, tell him that Marvel's really going all-out this year for their Silver Anniversary. Marvel's put together a spiffy Official Marvel Birthday Party Kit which contains everything a gang of Marvel maniacs needs to throw a party! If you're lucky enough to be near a participating store, maybe you'd better place your reservation today because it's sure to be a blast. And even if you're not, Marvel has thought about you, as well, because not only is every Marvel comic taking part in the celebration, but this summer also features the debut of the New Universe! So just by picking up any Marvel or New Universe title, you're automatically joining the party!

ITEM: Sharp-eyed readers at all the direct sales stores may have noticed a new addition to the covers of all Marvel direct sales titles on sale from May 13 to June 30. The addition is the official slogan of the 1986 American Booksellers Association campaign to fight illiteracy in America, "Give the Gift of Literacy." It's part of Marvel's program of reaching out to young people and reminding them of how valuable the ability to read can be.

ITEM: Nothing ever stays the same at the Bullpen, so for those of you keeping track, pull out your scorecards because there's been a new change in the Bullpen line-up. **Rosemary McCormick-Lowy** is now Assistant Editor to Special Projects Editor **Bob Budiansky** and will be helping him out with the posters, special editions, movie adaptations and anything else Bob can think of for her to do. Replacing her as Editor Carl Potts' assistant on POWER PACK, DOCTOR STRANGE, STRIKE FORCE MORITURI, etc., is newcomer **Joanne Spaldo**. So congratulations, Rosemary, and welcome aboard the wacky Bullpen Bandwagon, Joanne!

BULLPEN BIRTHDAYS

August 9	**Alyce Gordon**
August 9	**Rick Leonardi**
August 9	**Bob McLeod**
August 10	**Christie Scheele**
August 13	**Jim Mooney**
August 17	**John Romita, Jr.**
August 19	**George Roussos**
August 21	**Marie Severin**
August 23	**Terry Austin**
August 27	**Rick Parker**
August 27	**Don Perlin**

THE TOP TEN

It's Top Ten time again, folks! The Top Ten is a listing of the ten best selling direct sales titles. This issue we'll look at May's biggest sellers, as provided for us by our disorganized-but-lovable director of specialty sales, **Carol Kalish**.

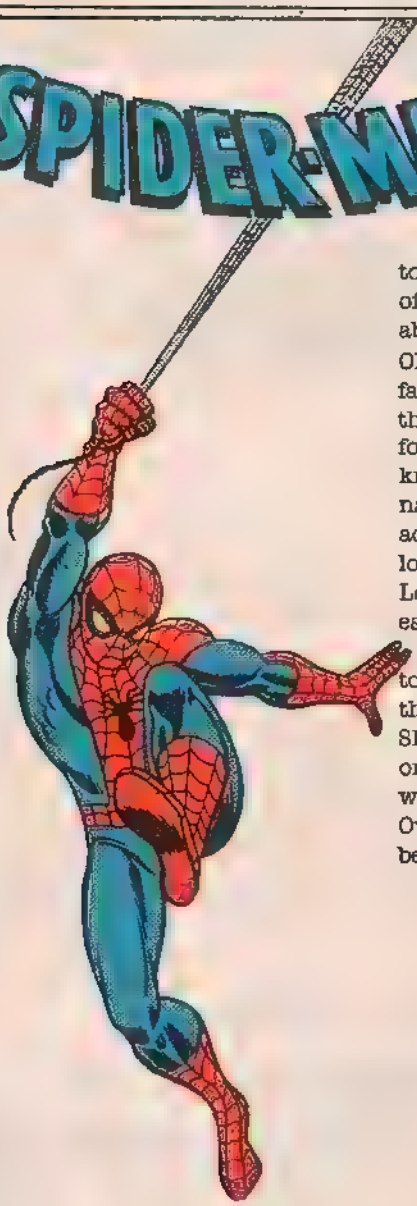
1—**CLASSIC X-MEN #1**
2—**X-MEN #209**
3—**X-FACTOR #8**
4—**MARVEL UNIVERSE #10**
5—**WEB OF SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #2**
6—**ALPHA FLIGHT ANNUAL #1**
7—**ALPHA FLIGHT #38**
8—**NEW MUTANTS #43**
9—**G.I. JOE #51**
10—**FANTASTIC FOUR #294**

Now that the warm weather is here, it looks like everyone is getting out to the comics shops again! And the mutants win again, with half of our titles featuring the people with something extra!—*A.P.*

X-TRA THE MUTANT REPORT X-TRA

VOLUME 2 "THE NEXT STEP IN NEWS EVOLUTION" NUMBER 5

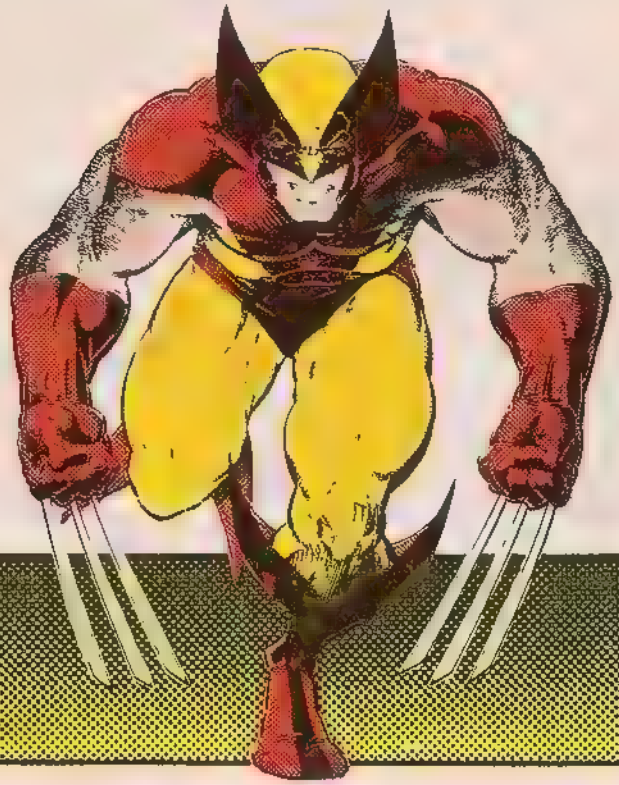
SPIDER-MAN® VS. WOLVERINE™



You've anxiously looked forward to each and every fascinating tidbit of information that's been revealed about Wolverine's mysterious past. Oh sure, you know that everyone's favorite X-Man was discovered by the late James MacDonald Hudson, founder of Alpha Flight. And you know that a certain villainess named Death Strike claims his adamantium laced skeleton belongs to her. But other than that, Logan's past is kind of murky—especially to him!

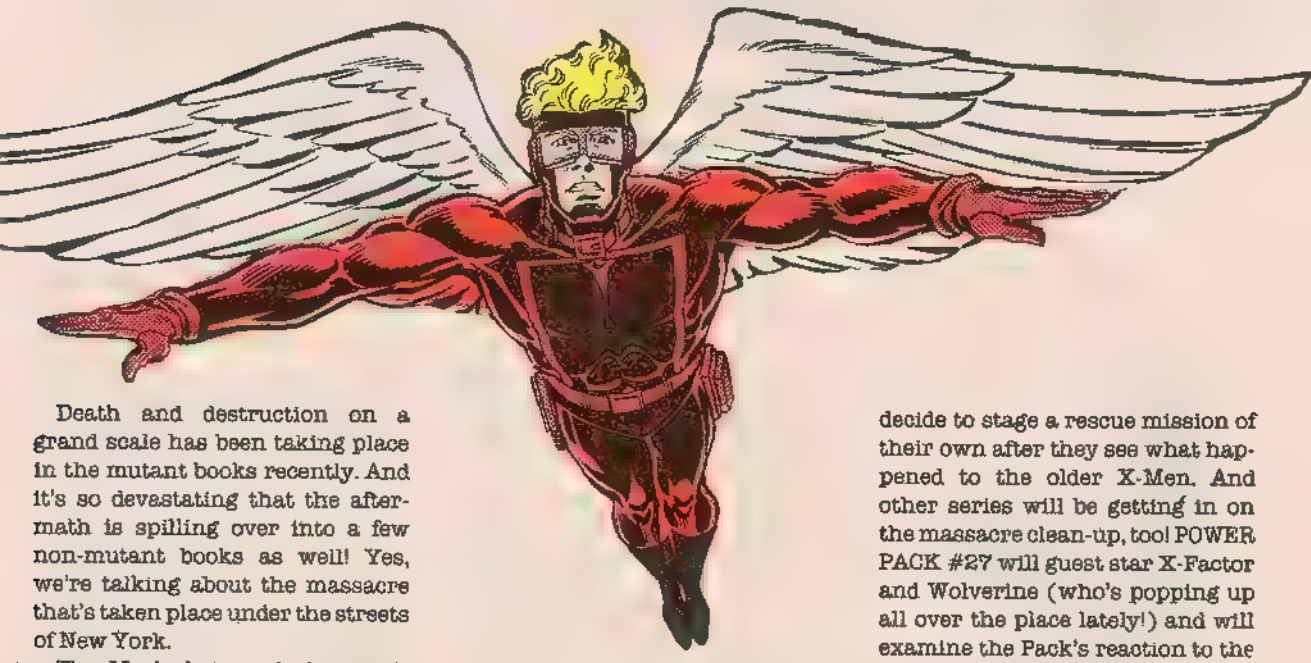
Well, some of that shadowy history will become a little clearer in the upcoming WOLVERINE VS. SPIDER-MAN special. The 64-page one-issue extravaganza is being written by Spidey editor Jim Owsley, and the art chores are being handled by IRON MAN illustrator Mark Bright. Edited by Ann Nocenti, the story involves a mysterious woman from Wolverine's hidden past. She's a villain, a female intelligence agent, and she's one tough and deadly character, as poor Spidey discovers the hard way. This tale is just the beginning of her involvement with the guy with the claws. She'll be popping up again as she becomes more and more important in the affairs of Wolverine and his friends. And the biggest shock of all is her part in Wolverine's past!

Will we finally learn all there is to know about Wolverine's secret origin? Has Spider-Man gotten in over his head again? We won't tell, but WOLVERINE VS. SPIDER-MAN is certainly another exciting step for these two!



MUTANT

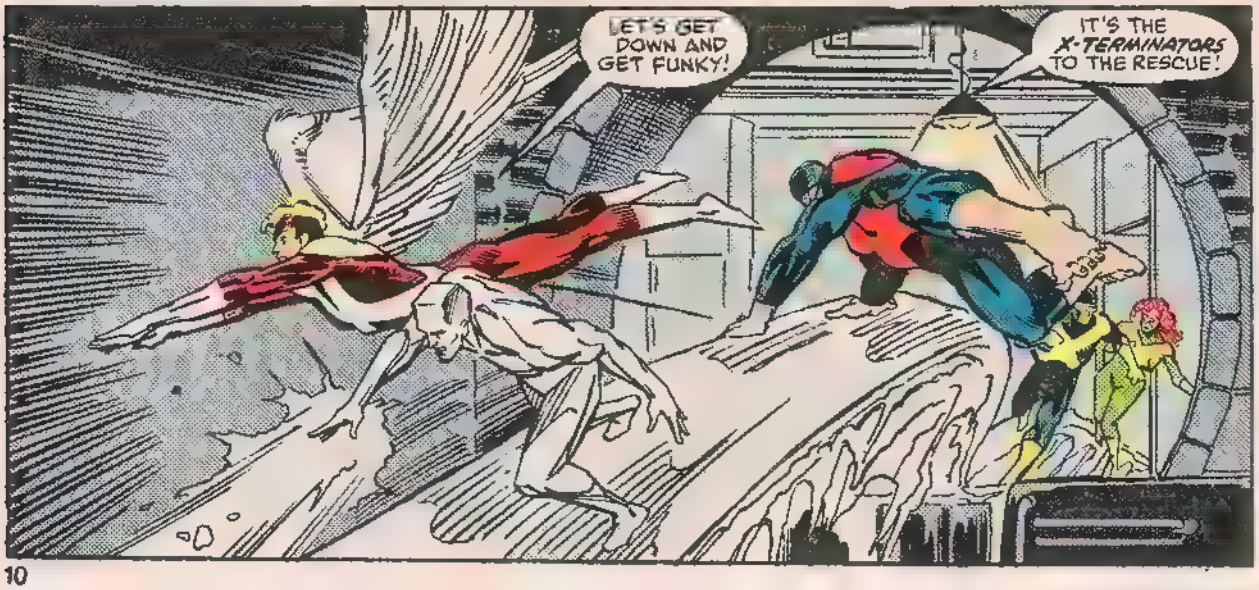
Massacre Mayhem!



Death and destruction on a grand scale has been taking place in the mutant books recently. And it's so devastating that the aftermath is spilling over into a few non-mutant books as well! Yes, we're talking about the massacre that's taken place under the streets of New York.

The Morlock tunnels have collapsed! Angel may be dead! Lots of mutants are injured! Or worse! What more could happen?

Some of the X-Factor team will be busy trying to rescue anyone who may be alive down in the tunnels in X FACTOR #13. While that's going on, Wolverine— who's still down in the tunnels—will be fighting for his life against the deadly Sabretooth, over in THE X-MEN. The NEW MUTANTS will be trying to help pick up some of the pieces over in their own book. They decide to stage a rescue mission of their own after they see what happened to the older X-Men. And other series will be getting in on the massacre clean-up, too! POWER PACK #27 will guest star X-Factor and Wolverine (who's popping up all over the place lately!) and will examine the Pack's reaction to the destruction that has claimed some of their best friends. X-Factor will also appear in THOR #373 and 374 as the God of Thunder shows up to help with the rescue. And *who* he rescues could be the surprise of the whole massacre storyline! Don't miss any of these important issues.



MORE MUTANT NEWS

Also coming up in X-FACTOR, Vanisher will be making more trouble for the young girl called Boom-Boom. Can Iceman save her from the scoundrel? Scott, meanwhile, worried about his inability to get in touch with his wife Madelyne, decides to return to Alaska to search for her. Could this lead to a run-in with Alpha Flight? It's a distinct possibility . . .

And have you noticed that Apocalypse is gathering the four horsemen? One is Pestilence. She's a Morlock who can destroy whole continents full of people. Not someone to mess with, by any means. Once Apocalypse has gathered War, Famine, and Death, X-Factor will be in serious trouble. And we understand that the villainous fiend will try to recruit some of the X-Factor team to fill the spots! Will he succeed?

We're not sure why he's putting these biblical plagues together, but an all-out assault on humanity does seem to fall well within the realm of possibility.

Louise Simonson is busy putting the finishing touches on a very special X-FACTOR story. Illustrated by guest artist David Mazzucchelli and Joe Rubinstein, the tale focuses on those mutants who were found and aided by X-Factor. Rusty, the fire-powered mutant who was the first to be helped by the team, accidentally burns a woman. He decides to help her in order to make amends for his actions. He's aided by Skids, the girl who's protected by a force field she can't lower. Add in little Artie and Boom-Boom and you've got a touching tale of people helping each other cope with their differences. Watch for it.

The NEW MUTANTS have always wanted to visit the Scottish highlands. But the highlands of the 13th Century? Warlock's father is coming to visit and the young heroes will be going on a jaunt through time and space! They'll be traveling into the past and the future for some wild and dangerous adventures. Oh, and Warlock's father Magus isn't coming by just for a social call. He's steaming mad, and he'll stop at nothing to get at his son.

And in POWER PACK #26 we'll be presenting a little tale starring their resident mutant, Franklin Richards. The story features Jarvis, Hercules, and the Fantastic Four as the Pack tries to sneak Frank into Avenger's Mansion before anyone notices he's been gone. Unfortunately, they set off the alarms and get into all kinds of trouble! Meanwhile, the FF, off in space searching for their son, have a run-in with the Snarks! All this, and young Alex is attacked by a crowd that thinks that he's a mutant! Some days it just doesn't pay to get out of bed . . .

More mutant news next month! Until then, watch out for runaway Sentinels!

—Bill Slavicsek

THE EXPANDING TRANSFORMERS UNIVERSE

From toystore shelves to comic books to television screens, **the Transformers** have captured the imaginations of millions and have become the hottest things in designer robots! And yes, their popularity and uniqueness have rocketed them right to the top of everyone's must-have list.

In keeping with this spirit and in answer to the throngs of fans everywhere who keep clamoring for "more! More! MORE!," Marvel delivers! That's right, in addition to our monthly illustrated offerings of THE TRANSFORMERS adventures, we'll be producing a number of special packages and goodies that will help you keep up with the mechanical megastars from Cybertron.

You wanted a mighty meeting between the Transformers and **the G.I. Joe Team**, so one has been arranged! You asked for a re-presentation of the classic tales that started it all, and we answered! You hoped that one day your favorite robots from Cybertron would make it to a movie theater near you, and they have! Can all these wonders be true? Without any further ado, read all about it . . .

TRANSFORMERS VS. G.I. JOE!

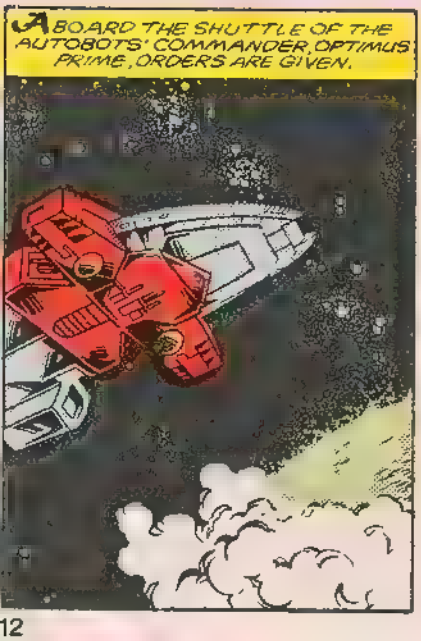
Perhaps the most eagerly awaited event in the Transformers' universe is the upcoming team-up with the G.I. Joe team! THE TRANSFORMERS VS. G.I. JOE promises to be chock full of action adventure, and high-tech hijinx!

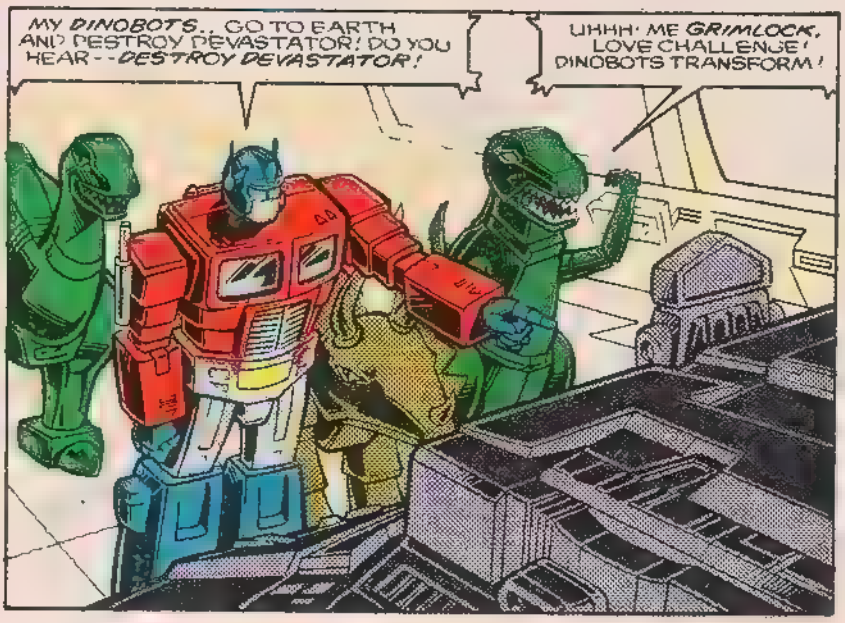
This four-part Limited Series will be written by **Mike Higgins** and illustrated by **Herb Trimpe** and **Vince Colletta**. With the abundance of mechanical wonders that both groups of characters employ, is it any wonder that Herb was selected to handle the penciling chore? Herb loves to ply his trade drawing vehicles, weapons, and plain old mechanical marvels to such an extent that it's easy to understand why he jumped at the chance to be involved with this team-up extravaganza. And Mike and Vince are no strangers to these mythos either!

The story involves a cooperative effort by **the Decepticons** (those Transformers who want to eradicate life forms from the galaxy) and **Cobra** (those villains who are out to destroy freedom, democracy, and the American way) to take control of a new high-tech power station. Whoever controls this station controls the world's energy supply! Both groups see a major advantage in working together to accomplish their own ends—at least for the time being!

Being the elite combat unit that they are, the Joes are assigned to guard the power station. And when the Decepticons get in on the fun, **the Autobots** get involved to help defend humanity. Action and high-tech go wild as these four groups get together for a major battle over the power station. And there're plenty of surprises in store, too.

But when so much raw power gets together, tragedy is




MY DINOBOTS... GO TO EARTH AND DESTROY DEVASTATOR! DO YOU HEAR--DESTROY DEVASTATOR!
UHHH· ME GRIMLOCK, LOVE CHALLENGE! DINOBOTS TRANSFORM!

sure to follow. With THE TRANFORMERS VS. G.I. JOE, this tragedy strikes quickly as a major Transformer gets blown up in the very first issue. Will there be more death and destruction? Will other Autobots and Decepticons wind up as scrap metal? Will any Joes or Cobras give their lives for their dramatically opposed causes? We think you'll be completely surprised.

THE TRANSFORMERS VS. G.I. JOE is the team-up you have been waiting for.

TRANSFORMERS DIGEST AND THE TRANSFORMERS UNIVERSE!

The saga of the Transformers began billions of years ago on the far-off world of Cybertron. It was a completely mechanical planet, a world where skyscrapers were as big as mountains and technological rivers of highways and byways crisscrossed the land. It was here that the first shot of the civil war was fired, where Decepticon and Autobot first waged their battle that has raged for centuries.

If you have only recently become aware of THE TRANSFORMERS and have only begun to follow their adventures, have no fear. In order to bring everyone up to date on the saga of these mechanical megastars, Marvel will be bringing you THE TRANSFORMERS COMICS MAGAZINE. Planned as a bi-monthly publication, the square-bound, digest-sized book will begin by reprinting the first two issues of THE TRANSFORMERS. Then, every other month, two more classic issues will be re-presented.

So if you weren't around the first time when the Transformers were awakened from their long-dormant state, if you missed the first battle between the Autobots and the Decepticons, then this is the book for you.

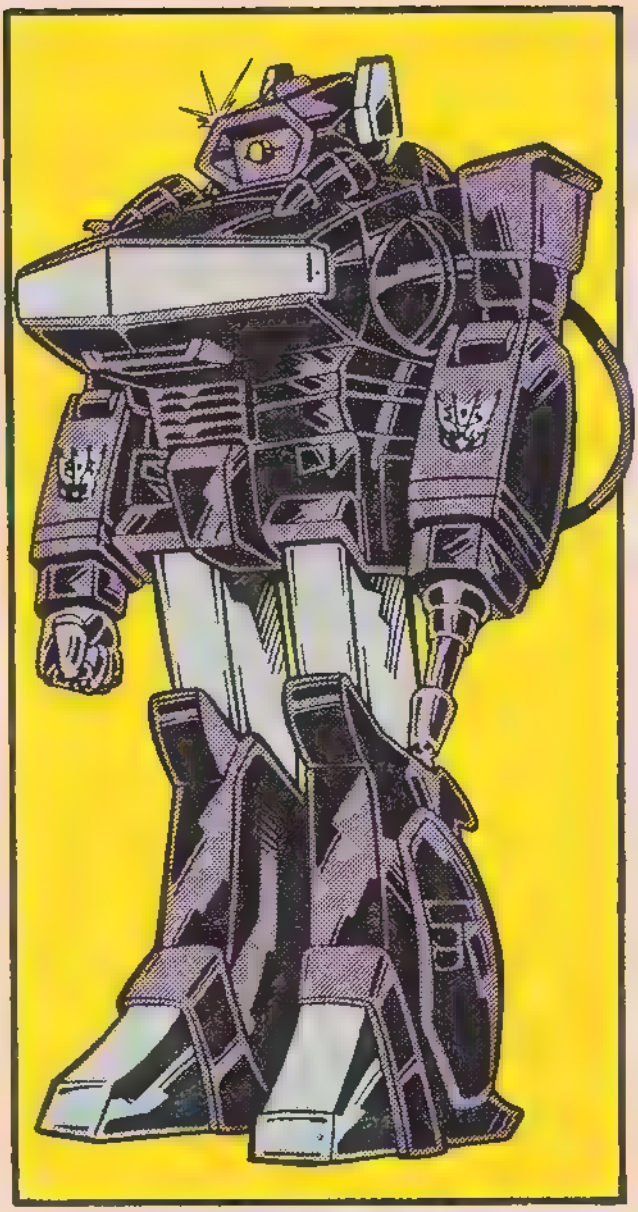
And if you've been around since the beginning, you still might want to re-live the Autobots declaration to defend the Earth, re-experience the Decepticons discovery of our resource rich planet and their dawning scheme to eventually eradicate all life from the galaxy.

There will even be some brand new material in the digest as well. Each issue will contain pages of THE TRANSFORMERS UNIVERSE, a new four-issue Limited Series full of information and statistics about your favorite mechanical marvels. In the tradition of THE MARVEL UNIVERSE, THE TRANSFORMERS UNIVERSE will present the history, powers, origins, and other vital statistics of everyone connected with the world of the Transformers, all in alphabetical order to make it easy to refer to. There will be something for everyone in the TRANSFORMERS COMICS MAGAZINE

TRANSFORMERS: THE MOVIE!

What new plateau can the Transformers conquer? What else is left for these mechanical marvels to accomplish? Well, how about the movies? Yes, the Transformers are on their way toward Hollywood stardom; their names in lights, their metal visages upon the big, silver screen! And Marvel will bring the large screen opus to life on the comic book page with TRANSFORMERS: THE MOVIE.

The adaptation is being written by **Ralph Macchio** from the screenplay by **Ron Friedman**, with breakdowns by **Don Perlin** and finished art by **Ian Akin** and **Brian Garvey**. It will be a three-issue Limited Series that takes us into the future to see the outcome of the Transformers' eon-long civil war



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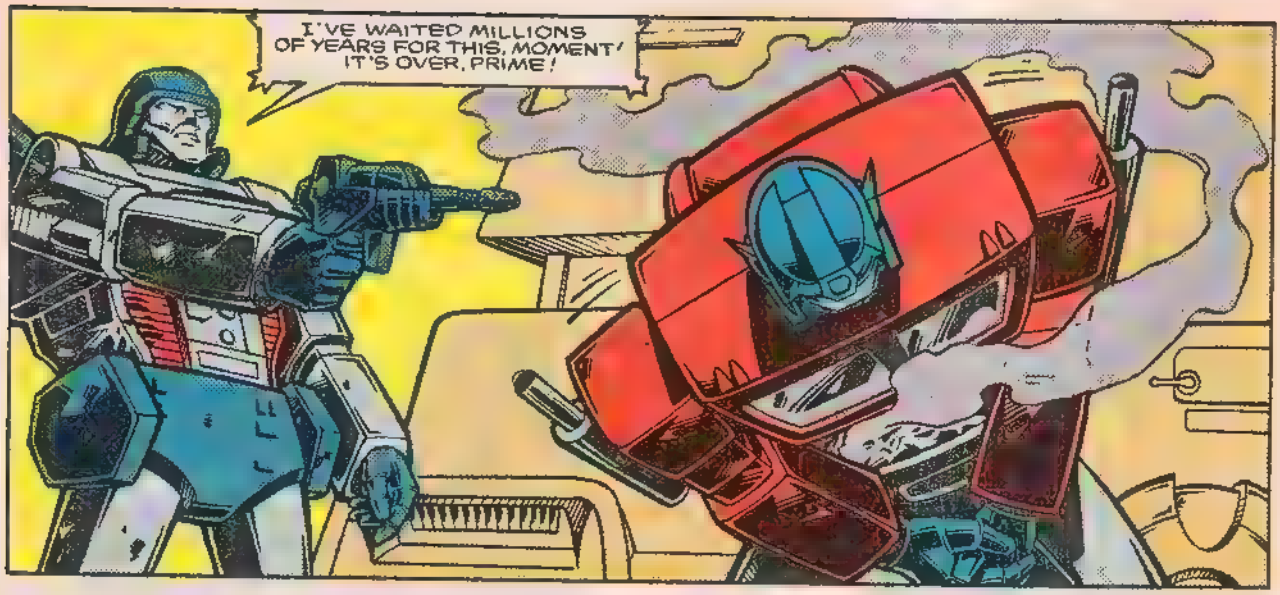
But the TRANSFORMERS. THE MOVIE is a first for Marvel. The movie itself is the first full-length animated film to be animated by Marvel Productions, and is produced by Sunbow and Marvel Productions. The California branch of everyone's favorite comic book company has pushed on to the next plateau itself. The people who bring you "Dungeons & Dragons" and "Spider-Man and his Amazing Friends" every Saturday morning are turning their talents to the giant screen. And the comic version is Marvel's adaptation of Marvel's first movie!

The movie is set 30 years into the future. The Decepticons have finally conquered the home planet of Cybertron and the war seems to be going in their favor. The Autobots, those defenders of life throughout the galaxy, are relegated to bases on the twin moons of Cybertron and to an outpost on Earth. Things look grim.

But then they get worse. A new being has entered the



galaxy and is heading toward Cybertron. It is called **Unicron**, and it eats planets! As it weaves a path of death and destruction across the endless reaches of space, it finally reaches a point where it threatens Cybertron, the Transformers' home world.

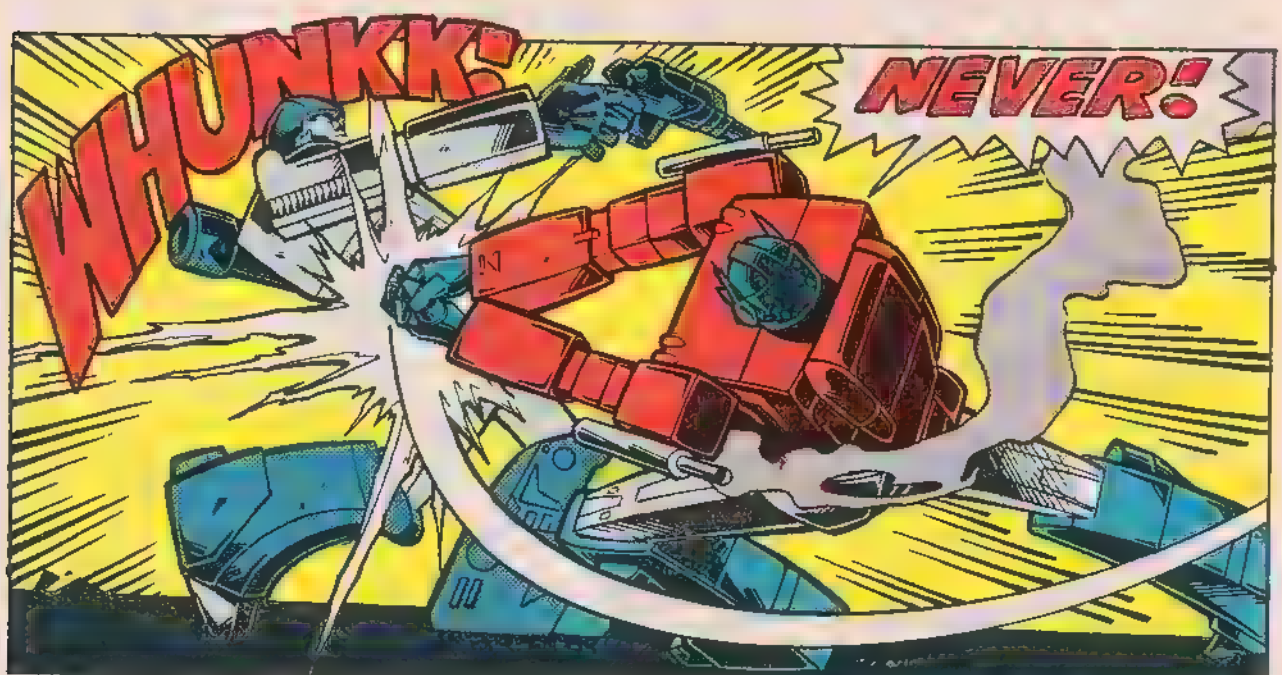
How do the evil Decepticons deal with a being that includes them on its daily menu? They decide to cooperate and join forces with it, leaving the valiant Autobots in even more of a predicament. They must now battle two forces that seek the destruction of life everywhere—the Decepticons and Unicron!

The movie (and the adaptation, too) also features a life and death struggle between the Transformers' leaders, **Optimus Prime** and **Megatron**. We won't reveal the outcome of this titantic clash, but we will say that there will be plenty of new characters introduced to fill any sudden vacancies. On the Decepticons' side, we'll see the debut of **Galvatron**, a Transformer who definitely has his sights set on leadership! For the Autobots, we'll meet **Ultra Magnus**, who also has leadership stamped all over himself.

Old favorites, a new roster of characters created just for the movie, visits to strange, new worlds, dramatic confrontations, and a deadly new menace—TRANSFORMERS: THE MOVIE (both the comic and the celluloid sensation) has it all! It's the three-issue Limited Series based on Marvel Production's first full-length animated feature! You won't want to miss either of them.

So that's what to expect in the months ahead from these compelling mechanical beings. A starring role in Marvel's first movie venture, an adaptation of that movie, a team-up with those Real American Heroes, an official handbook, and a compilation of the classic tales that started it all. That should satisfy the hordes of Transformers afficionados—at least for awhile. But expect the unexpected. By now everyone has discovered that where The Transformers are concerned, there really *is* more than meets the eye.

—Bill Slavicsek



STAN'S SOAPBOX

Greetings, Culture Lovers!

This ish I wanna start my column with a blatant commercial! That's right, I've got something to sell, and you're the perfect captive audience. So get your paper and pencil—this offer may not be repeated!

Ballantine Books (bless 'em!) just published a sensational new book called THE BEST OF SPIDER-MAN, written by one of my very favorite authors! I don't want to embarrass this living legend by mentioning his name, but his initials are S.L.!

Anyway, it sells for about $9.95 and it's a huge 8½" by 11" deluxe quality paperback with a couple of hundred pages (some in full color!) devoted to everybody's favorite web-spinner! It features eight of Spidey's greatest newspaper strip adventures, plus the world's longest introduction by yours truly (wouldja believe more than 30 pages?!!) and enough photos of this same mysterious S.L. person to make you swear off photography forever.

Hint: THE BEST OF SPIDER-MAN (at book stores everywhere) makes a wonderful gift for your best friend (an even better one for your worst enemy) and, if nothing else, you'll enjoy counting all the times the word "I" appears in the text which is so magnificently written by this shy and unassuming author.

And now, on to weightier matters while you prepare to dash to your favorite book seller.

Since last we met, you've probably all been caught up in the excitement of the NEW UNIVERSE. I guess when you're as tall as **Jolly Jim Shooter** you can't just settle for one measly ol' universe—you've gotta go out and create your own! And that's just what your batty Bullpen did! Of course, it's separate and distinct from the *old* Marvel Universe—I mean, if any wise-guy artist draws **Peter Parker** taking a photo of **Starbrand** in one of the stories, **Tom DeFalco'll** whip 'im with a wet noodle. So read all about it in this issue of MARVEL AGE—and all about the titanic **Transformers**, too. Didja know that we produce the TRANSFORMERS cartoon show right here at Marvel Productions' animated studio in sunny California? And didja know that the TRANSFORMERS (and our other great production, G.I. JOE) are two of the highest rated cartoon shows on the tube? And I don't even narrate them! How about that!

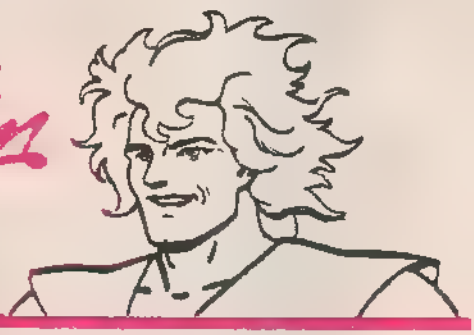
Hey, I've got a confession to make. When **Slim Jim Salicrup** asked me to write these Soapbox columns I figured who needs it? But now I find I really enjoy doing 'em! I guess I never realized how much I missed rapping with all you True Believers. It's kinda hard to explain, but as my weary little fingers dance along the keyboard, I feel as though I'm really talking to you—I can almost see you drinking in each word in undisguised rapture and unbridled appreciation!

So now comes the hook. Since I'm providing all this incalculable entertainment for you, the least you can do is drop me a line in return! How about sending a note telling what you'd like me to sound off about (or, if you're a misanthropic malcontent, what you'd like me to shut up about!). I won't have time to answer your letters, but I'll sure read each one, and in my usual sneaky way, steal every good idea I can grab from them! Just send your merry little missives to STAN LEE (See? I'll do anything to get my name in print!) MARVEL AGE, 387 PARK AVE. SOUTH, NYC NY 10016. I can just picture **Hobson's Heroes** shouting, "Hey, look at all the mail! Is someone READING this mag?!!"

Well, that's it for now. Till next ish, keep healthy, keep happy, and keep the faith! We don't know where we're going, but let's stumble along together!

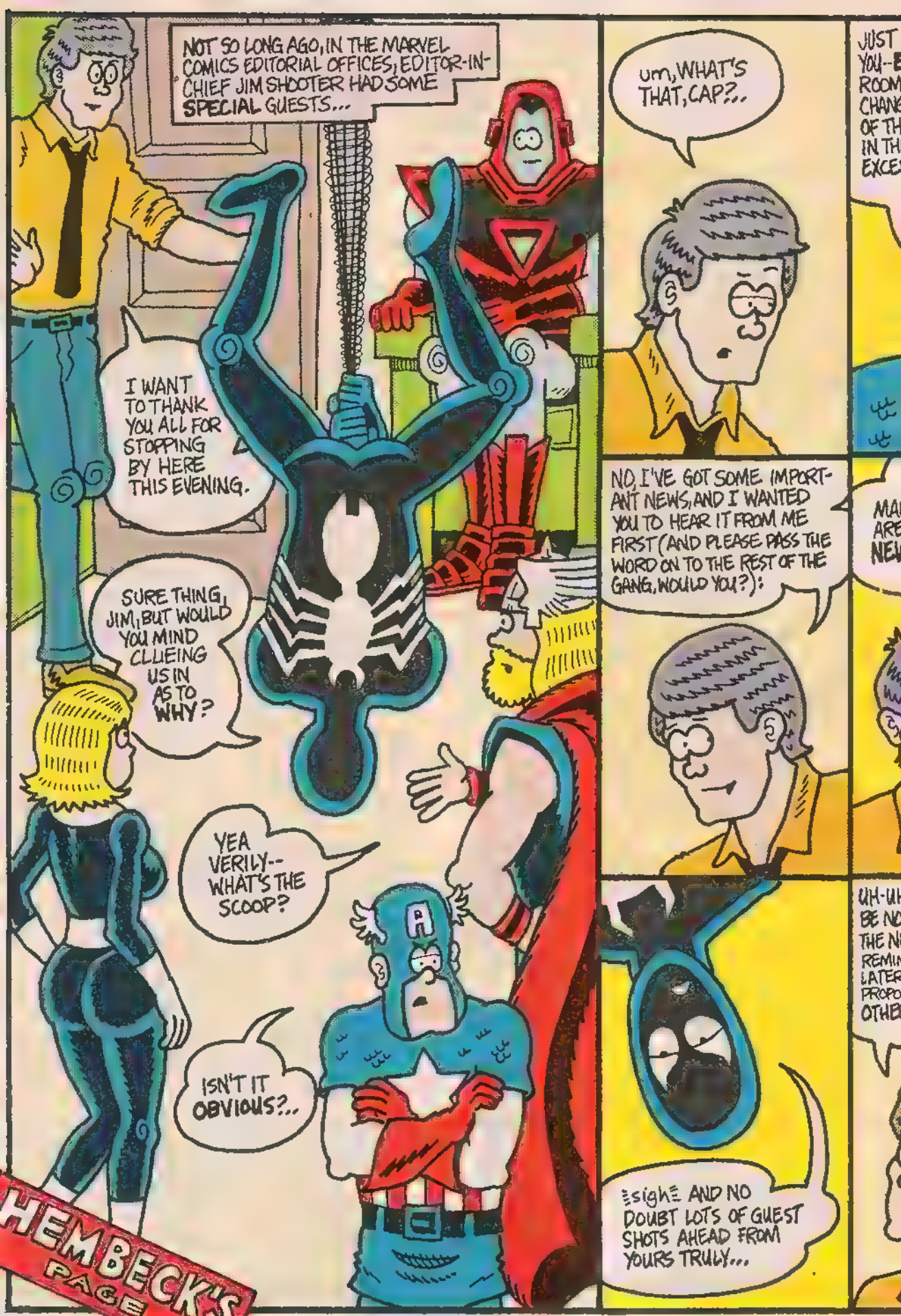
Excelsior!

Stan



Our fearless leader is at it again! This time, he's scripting the upcoming comics version of **Solarman**, which he created and scripted as an animated series for Marvel Productions. Solarman, the animated version, will be coming your way this fall on television, while SOLARMAN, the comic, will be appearing in early September. This special 32 page, no ads, one-shot comic is being drawn by **Jim "Thundercat" Mooney** and **Dennis "He-Man" Janke**!

This story will introduce us to the alien scientist who created the dreaded Circle of Power, a device which funnels the energy of the stars into a single person! We'll also see the evil alien who plans to destroy life on Earth by tapping into our sun's power! The scientist takes refuge on Earth, and a teenage boy ends up with the Circle of Power, which transforms him into— **Solarman**! And the rest, as they say, is history!


NOT SO LONG AGO, IN THE MARVEL COMICS EDITORIAL OFFICES, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF JIM SHOOTER HAD SOME SPECIAL GUESTS...
I WANT TO THANK YOU ALL FOR STOPPING BY HERE THIS EVENING.
SURE THING, JIM, BUT WOULD YOU MIND CLUEING US IN AS TO WHY?
YEA VERILY-- WHAT'S THE SCOOP?
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?..
um, WHAT'S THAT, CAP?..
NO, I'VE GOT SOME IMPORTANT NEWS, AND I WANTED YOU TO HEAR IT FROM ME FIRST (AND PLEASE PASS THE WORD ON TO THE REST OF THE GANG, WOULD YOU?):
sigh AND NO DOUBT LOTS OF GUEST SHOTS AHEAD FROM YOURS TRULY...
HEMBECK'S PAGE

TAKE A LOOK AROUND
VERYONE IN THIS
HAS HAD HIS COSTUME
ED (OR, IN THE CASE
OR, AQUIRED A BEARD)
E LAST YEAR OR SO
PT ME--
--SO YOU ROUNDED THEM ALL UP TO SOFTEN THE BLOW WHEN YOU TELL ME I'M NEXT--ADMIT IT! JUST--JUST DON'T CHANGE MY COLORS, OKAY? AND PLEASE-- NO POLKA DOTS! ..sob...
YOU'RE WAY OFF BASE, CAP--THAT'S NOT THE REASON I'VE ASSEMBLED YOU ALL HERE TODAY.
IT--IT'S NOT?..
WE AT
RVEL COMICS
STARTING A
N UNIVERSE!!
A...NEW... UNIVERSE?..
YES, BUT REST ASSURED, YOU MEMBERS OF THE (er) OLD UNIVERSE WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE FUTURE OF MARVEL COMICS.
OUR NEW UNIVERSE WILL HAVE LOTS OF EXCITING CHARACTERS, SITUATIONS, AND CONCEPTS.
, SPIDEY--THERE'LL
CROSSOVERS WITH
EW UNIVERSE. (..BUT
ND ME TO TALK TO YOU
ABOUT THIS TOP POS
SAL I HAVE...). ANY
R QUESTIONS?
THEN--YOU'RE REALLY NOT GOING TO CHANGE MY UNIFORM?
NO, CAP, WE'RE NOT. NOW, LET ME TELL YOU A BIT MO--
YOU KNOW, I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT, JIM, AND I JUST MIGHT BE AMENABLE TO A MOUSTACHE. ERROL FLYNN HAD A MOUSTACHE, YOU KNOW. OF COURSE, HIS WASN'T BLONDE, BUT THE WAY I FIGURE IT...
MEETING ADJOURNED!!

BEHOLD . . . THE New Universe

For weeks now, rumors and tidbits of information have been circulating about the debut of a line of Marvel comics that will not just be new, but will inaugurate a whole new direction in comic book story-telling. The line of comics, of course, is the New Universe. And because it is such an innovative line, secrecy about the New Universe has been even more stringent than the secrecy surrounding the identity of the fifth member of **X-Factor** over a year ago. Now the story can be told of how the New Universe was created, what will be in it and why it is so special.

The driving force behind the creation and development of the New Universe is Editor in Chief **Jim Shooter**. He announced his plans over a year ago to the editorial staff and solicited ideas from them. Though many concepts were submitted, Jim felt that none quite hit the mark for what he wanted in the New Universe. It was then that he corralled Executive Editor **Tom DeFalco**, spirited him away to a conference room at an undisclosed New York City hotel and there, totally cut off from the rest of the world, launched a twenty-four hour brainstorming session that formed the foundation of the New Universe.

With that foundation in hand, Jim and Tom began holding meetings with the men who would assist in providing the concepts ultimately accepted for the debut of the New Universe: Epic Editor in Chief **Archie Goodwin**, Editors **Mark Gruenwald** and **Eliot Brown** and Assistant Editor **John Morelli**.

The result is a line of comics made even more fantastic because the stories in the New Universe could actually occur in the real world.

And as Jim, Archie and Mark reveal here, that premise of reality is just the beginning!

Now, MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE gives you the inside story on the creation of the New Universe, from its original conception on up to now. We sent MARVEL AGE reporter **Dwight Jon Zimmerman** to interview Jim Shooter, Archie Goodwin, **Michael Higgins** and Mark Gruenwald on the New Universe. Here's what they had to say:

Jim Shooter

What started you thinking in terms of developing a totally different line of comics?

Our 25th Anniversary was approaching and while we are very proud to continue the works of **Stan Lee**, **Jack Kirby**, **Steve Ditko** and all the rest, we wouldn't have been true to our creative heritage if we stopped at just doing some anniversary issues and left it at that.

Those people in 1961 were revolutionaries. So I felt that we had to be revolutionaries, too. That's why we started the New Universe.

The New Universe is going to be the kind of leap away from the standard of today, which is set by Marvel, that the Marvel Universe was when it appeared twenty-five years ago.

In 1961, the difference in credibility between Marvel Comics and all other comics was awesome. I remember reading AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #2. The problems that **Peter Parker** had in that story were unheard of. Nobody had ever before seen anything like that in comics. And I have to tell you, probably at any other comic book company the whole idea of comic book characters having human, real-life problems would have been scoffed at because those companies would have claimed the idea was too dull and too boring.

On the contrary, it was exciting! And it really made Marvel different throughout the sixties and seventies. Now what has happened in the twenty-five years since Stan started it, pretty much everyone has latched onto the idea of doing stories in a more credible manner. In other words, the other companies have come around and are now trying to do what Marvel does. I think Marvel does it better and that Marvel always will.

The point of the New Universe is to take that next leap in realism. All the other people in the other companies are going to scoff and claim that it won't work—that it will be dull. But I think it will be exciting. I think it will break all the rules again, just like Marvel broke all the rules back in 1961. Only this time, we're going to break rules that we, ourselves, established.

Considering Marvel's leadership in comics, some would expect the opposite, that Marvel would try to maintain the status quo instead of embarking on a new experiment.

Because Marvel is the leader in the field, you *could* expect other companies to claim that we were going to become complacent, lapse into formula stories. If we were stupid, then yes, they'd probably be right.

But when I say we are the leaders, that is something that I take seriously. We've made it our business to break new ground constantly. We introduced most of the benefits to the creators which are now the standard of the field. We introduced most of the new formats which are now the standard of the field. And we will continue to be leaders. We at Marvel will always be daring. If we ever try to stop, then I'll be gone.

Was the idea behind the New Universe to start something completely fresh and unrelated to the Marvel Universe?

The thought crossed my mind, yes. That certainly was a reason, but not *the* reason. The reason for the New Universe was to revolutionize the medium. We came up with a thought just to change the way comics were being done.

What can you tell us specifically about the make-up of the New Universe?

I think that the key word for it is credibility. The New

MARK HAZARD: MERC™
written by **Peter David** and drawn by **Grey Morrow**

Raised an army brat, schooled at West Point, bloodied in Vietnam, **Mark Hazard** discovered two damning things about his life. The first was that he was a misfit — always an outsider, a loner, at odds with his parents, schools and with authority in general. The second is that combat is what he loves — and what he does best.

That is why Mark Hazard is a mercenary, a soldier of fortune who sells his fighting and leadership abilities to military causes he believes in, or can live with — provided they can pay the price.

But the price his employer pays is nothing compared to Mark Hazard's cost. Rejected by his parents, divorced from his wife, alienated from his only son and his friends, Mark's only remaining refuge for comfort and understanding is the hard, but unspoken bond of fellowship with others like him — other mercenaries.

Poignant, dramatic, touched with humor and filled with action, MARK HAZARD: MERC is a story fabulous in a dream and a nightmare in reality.

Universe is the universe outside your window. The New Universe takes place in the real world.

So we will have the situation of how the world might truly react to the fact of super-powered beings in its midst.

Presuming that they knew about them. But I think that if we dwell too much on it that people will get the wrong impression, that this idea is very heavy stuff. And while I think it is, I don't want people to focus only on the concept. As far as I'm concerned if readers are sitting around and discussing the brilliant new concept that we have, then

we've failed I just want them to be interested in our characters

So it's not the concept, it's the stories that you feel are most important.

Right. It is definitely the story. This whole thing I've been talking about, credibility and stuff like that, should be incidental to the reader. All it should do is open the door, so to speak, so that the reader can enter the fantasy of the story so much more easily.

Star Comics is geared primarily for younger readers and Epic primarily for older ones. Who is the target audience for the New Universe?

Well, we don't usually try to think in terms of target audience. It's not so much that we're aiming Star Comics at younger kids, it's just that we are doing in Star what appeals to them. The same thing with Epic, it's not that we're aiming their titles at older readers because I don't know how you could do that. Older readers are also reading X-MEN and other Marvel comics, so what are we going to do, aim for grandfathers?

There is no rule about it. The principle behind Marvel Comics is to do the best stories we can and the best stories are the ones that reach out to the readers.

I think that at present the things that we are doing in the New Universe will generally attract older readers.

What was the breakdown of the development of the concepts used that became the first New Universe titles?

We all worked on all of them, but mostly Archie Goodwin came up with four, I came up with one, Mark Gruenwald did one, Tom DeFalco did one and the entire group came up with one which was pulled together by Gerry Conway, Bob Harras, Eliot Brown, and John Morelli.

It's amazing that Archie Goodwin contributed half of your starting line-up.

Yes, well, we're no fools. If you have an Archie Goodwin on your staff, stand back and let him go! Archie is one of the most talented people ever to cross our threshhold, and some very talented people have crossed it So my greatest contribution to the New Universe was getting out of Archie's way and letting him do everything.

What was it about the New Universe that really excited these people?

I think it was the concept of reality that really got them excited.

Think about it this way: Most other comic book companies don't have a fundamental concept. Either they don't have a "universe" at all, or if they do, it really doesn't have consistency or a solid internal logic Sometimes they'll even try to paste one on retroactively. What Stan did back in 1961 was create a universe where there was internal logic from the beginning. The Marvel Universe wasn't entirely consistent with the real-world, but it was internally consistent.

So now we are taking that next great leap, saying that not only will we be consistent, but we will also be consistent to the real world.

Another element of the New Universe that will become apparent is that it will take place in real time. Now it may not be directly even with the calendar, because sometimes a story that takes two issues to tell will not have lasted two months, but by the end of the year, everything will have advanced a year. In order to do stories in a real world, we have to have real time pass. I can't claim this concept as mine, because other strips have used this as an element, but no one else has created a whole universe using the idea of real time.

What will be the effect of the New Universe on the Marvel Universe?

I think that it will continue to grow and thrive. The Marvel Universe is one of the most incredible creations in storytelling history. I expect it will do just fine. And I think that the New Universe will grow equally well, take off and become the new standard for the future.

Archie Goodwin

Of the eight starting titles in the New Universe, you created four, PSI-FORCE, NIGHTMASK, JUSTICE and MARK HAZARD: MERC.

Yes, that wasn't my plan, it just worked out that way. I think it maybe sounds more dramatic than it actually is. I've never been a fast producer or a producer of great volumes of work. But I tend to think about things for a long time. So, in effect, the ideas that I suggested for New Universe are ideas that I had been kicking around for five to ten years. I was waiting for a time or an opportunity to do them, and New Universe was the perfect opportunity to bring them out.

What aspect of creating the books for the New Universe surprised you the most?

I think that we were all surprised by the fact that we came up with as many good ideas so quickly. Any time that you think of trying to do a new series or a new villain or a new supporting character, it gets tougher and tougher as the backlog of things done grows and grows.

I expected it to be a real hard slog coming up with all this new stuff and I was impressed by the new concepts. They did not sound like things that had already been done.

What do you see as being an advantage the New Universe has over other lines of comics?

The big advantage we have is that we know now, ahead of time, that comic book characters from different titles can and do meet. Their lives can interrelate. So right from the start we have a better idea about the consequences of introducing new things. One of the things we want to avoid is introducing things that would risk throwing the New Universe out of whack with reality Before there is, for instance, an alien race introduced there is going to be a lot of long, hard thought about it. And I doubt we'll be doing hidden civilization stories or anything like that. But the characters in the different books will be meeting each other

Which books will you be writing?

Right now I'll be writing JUSTICE and NIGHTMASK and giving MARK HAZARD: MERC and PSI-FORCE my blessing and sending them off on their own.

What sort of influence has the Marvel Universe had on the creation of the New Universe?

One of the things we kicked around when we considered concepts was, "Is this too much like a Marvel character? What can we do to make it less a Marvel and more a New Universe concept?"

With the Marvel characters, when they were first created nobody knew if they would last one year, two or just a few months. And nobody thought they would last ten years or more! So when they were created the characters were not created with the particular thought that someday we'll have twenty-five years of history and that all of these characters would interrelate

We're starting out with that sort of awareness ahead of time. And that's making things a lot easier

SPITFIRE

And The TROUBLESHOOTERS!™

SPITFIRE AND THE TROUBLESHOOTERS
written by **Gerry Conway, Elliot Brown** and **John Morelli**, penciled by **Herb Trimpe** and inked by **Joe Sinnott**

Jenny Swensen cares not about rules. She cares only about what is *right*. And when her research scientist father is killed Jenny suspects that something is most decidedly and murderously *wrong*. Stealing his greatest invention, the *Man Amplification Construction Suit*, Jenny pursues the man she believes responsible for her father's death—his employer.

Nightmask

NIGHTMASK
written by **Archie Goodwin**, pencilled by **Tony Salmons** and inked by **Bret Blevins**.

Keith Remsen and his crippled sister **Theodora**, or Teddy, possess the power to explore a realm of fantasy as infinite as the imagination, because that is where they travel—the world of a person's dreams.

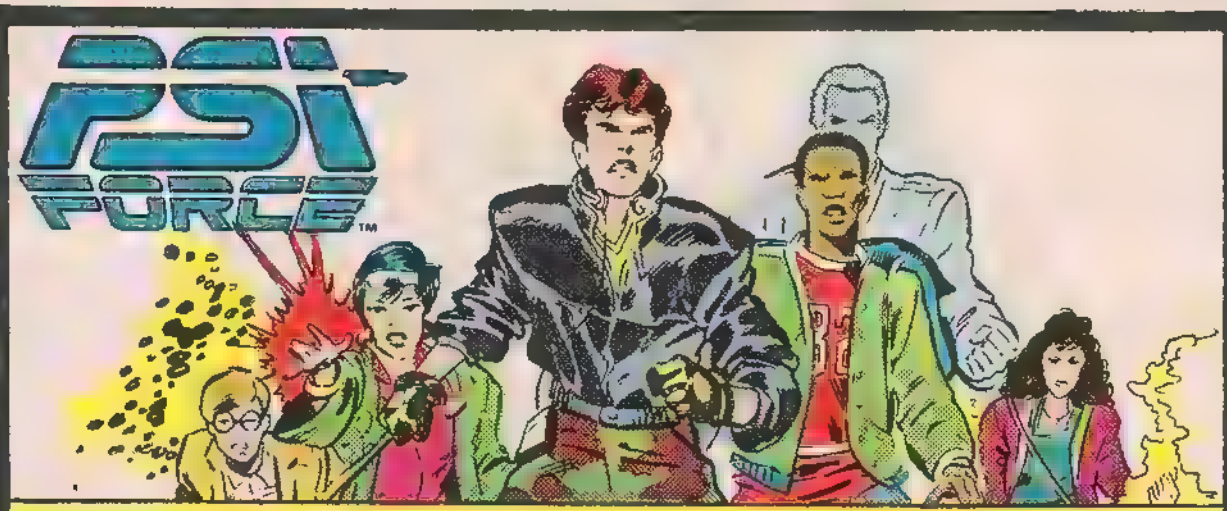
Under the auspices of **Dr. Lucian Ballad** and Teddy's physical therapist, **Lita Mercado**, Keith and Teddy offer a unique and selective psychoanalytical consulting service to the seriously disturbed by working to help them through their dreams.

Hidden by his psychophysically manifested *Nightmask*, Keith anonymously travels through a client's dreams, protected from the client's psychological defenses.

The adventures are many and the dangers frightfully real for a dream-death of Nightmask means an indescribable death for Keith—a death the cruel and murderous independent creatures of dreams like **the Gnome** would only be too happy to deliver.

In addition to dangers from the fantastic, the problems of the real world loom large as well. Keith and Teddy are teenage orphans, forced to grow up quickly in a world that treats normal kids their age callously. And if that world knew the truth about their powers, who knows what would happen?

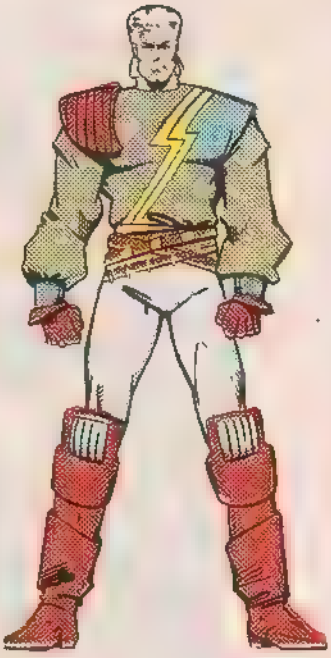
Psi Force



PSI-FORCE
written by **Steve Perry**, pencilled by **Mark Texeira** and inked by **Kyle Baker**.

They are teenage runaways possessing paranormal powers of psychic healing, astral projection, telepathy and telekinesis. One man sought to protect them from the exploitation—or destruction—he knew would happen once governments, or companies, learned of their existence. They have, and that man is now dead.

But his legacy has not been lost. The five still live and, as yet, are free. And, more, they have discovered how to mindmeld—unite their paranormal powers into a creation of fantastic power that is the image of their fallen guardian, *Psi-Hawk*. Together the five wage a guerilla war to protect themselves and others of their kind.



JUSTICE
written by **Archie Goodwin**, penciled by **Geof Isherwood** and inked by **Joe DelBeato**.

He was a warrior and law officer in his own world. He has awesome powers to destroy, to shield and protect and to read the true nature of a person in his aura.

How he came to this new world he cannot remember. But what he does know is that good must still be protected and evil must be relentlessly exterminated—even here.

But unlike his home world, Justice discovers that on Earth, nothing is clearly divided between good and evil.

He discovers that the justice he metes brings to him the vengeance of those he sees as good and is sworn to protect. Most troubling of all to Justice is that even those he sees as being good carry the potential for incredible evil.

Michael Higgins

Though you have been working for Marvel for many years, it is only now that you're becoming known.

I've been here for awhile all right—first in the production department, then as an Assistant Editor, and most recently as a Managing Editor of Special Projects. I don't think anyone out there really knows me yet, but they should be hearing a lot more from me in the near future.

Which New Universe *books are you editing?*

STAR BRAND, KICKERS, INC., NIGHTMASK, and JUSTICE. I've given up whatever else I was working on to give me the time to concentrate on just these titles.

What is the most exciting part of working on the New Universe *for you?*

There are some top-notch creators on the *New Universe* books and it's going to be a lot of fun working with them. I've dealt with so many people over the eight years I've been at Marvel but it'll be interesting working with them in a new capacity and in new combinations.

Do you think you will find yourself deeply involved in the details of developing the stories?

Yes. Although I was not involved in the initial planning stages of these series, naturally as editor I will play an active role in the directions taken from here.

How would you describe the New Universe?

The *New Universe* is a lot more like the real world than we've traditionally been exposed to in comic book adventure stories. Overall, things will be more down-to-earth but every bit as exciting as what you've come to expect from Marvel over the years.

STAR BRAND
written by **Jim Shooter**, penciled by **John Romita, Jr.** and inked by **Al Williamson**

There is a weapon in the universe more powerful than all others.
It is called the *Star Brand*.
There is no more coveted, feared, loved or hated thing in existence.
Now this dreaded weapon has fallen into the hands of **Kenneth Connell**, an Earthman.
Another man might crumble under the burden of pain, worry, suspicion and fear that the Star Brand brings to its bearer. Another man might desire only to pass the dreaded brand to another and let that other suffer the cost of responsibility its possession brings.

Mark Gruenwald

Mark, you are one of the most knowledgeable people about anything and everything that has occurred in the Marvel Universe. It must be a real challenge for you now to be involved with the New Universe and to be working on a New Universe book that you created, D.P. 7.

Definitely. That's why I took it.

My philosophy working at Marvel for the last eight years has been that since I'm at Marvel, I want to do Marvel books. And by editing THE AVENGERS and related titles and writing CAPTAIN AMERICA and, particularly, in handling the MARVEL UNIVERSE HANDBOOK, I am so steeped in Marvel lore and legendry that I welcomed a break. I welcomed a place where I didn't know the last 10 billion years of history and could help create a fictional universe.

Can you tell us a little of what went on in the meetings that created the New Universe?

Jim Shooter, Tom DeFalco, Archie Goodwin, Eliot Brown, John Morelli and myself came to the meeting, each having a proposal or, in Archie's case, many proposals.

We talked about them, discussed possible names for the books and worked on de-bugging the concepts. In one case, Jim had an idea and Archie had an idea and we wound up combining the two to form STARBRAND

Of my proposal, D.P. 7, four of the seven original characters remained relatively intact. The other three evolved through different meetings and work at home.

We all worked to find the common elements in the concepts that would help make the New Universe a logical universe that interrelated and one that could exist in the real world. So it is unlike the Marvel Universe which uses pseudo-science and is set in a world that is similar to the real world, but could never be mistaken for it. And it is not like Epic which publishes a lot of good books that essentially have nothing to do with each other.

What sort of identity do you think the New Universe will have?

Well, the identity of the New Universe is that there will be greater realism in it. There will be real life consequences to super-things. It is hard to say at this point where it will all go. But I don't think it will limit the imagination or the sense of the fantastic. In fact, the more fantastic an event in the story, the more incredible will be the consequences that we'll be showing.

D.P. 7

written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Paul Ryan** and inked by **Romeo Tanghal**.

They are seven people out of place in the world. They are seven people who had to give up their friends, their loved ones, their lives and do the unthinkable—disappear as completely as possible from society, forever.

They are seven people afraid of what they are, afraid of what might become of them once *anyone* knows they exist.

Dave Landers, **Dennis Cuzinski**, **Lenore Fenzi**, **Dr. Randy O'Brien**, **Jeff Walters**, **Charlotte Beck** and **Stephanie Harrington** are seven of the most dangerous people ever to walk the Earth.

They are D.P. 7.

KICKERS, INC.
written by **Tom DeFalco**, penciled by **Ron Frenz** and inked by **Sal Buscema**

Jack Magniconte, the highest paid athlete in the world, perhaps the most gifted physical specimen to wear a football uniform since **Jim Brown**, has a problem. Yesterday, suddenly, by means he can't understand, he became much stronger, much faster than before.

But what he does understand is that it cost him the life of his brother.

And that's just the beginning of his turmoil.

Jack always thought that winning wasn't everything—it was the *only* thing. But now he's not so sure. With his newfound ability, should he remain in football?

What would his brother, Steve, have wanted? Steve lost his life trying to help Jack gain that extra edge so many athletes crave. Now Jack has it—in spades. What's he going to do now?

Maybe there is something he can do to help people, but that's also exciting, outrageous, maybe even dangerous. Something he and a few of his closest buddies could do together on the off-season. Something that meant adventure. Fun!

Tax deductible wouldn't hurt either.

Then it hits him.

You've never seen anything like **Kickers, Inc.**

THE MARVEL AGE 1972 (PART IV)

Nya-ha-ha-ha-ha! If you've got a weak heart or you don't like being scared, you'd better stop reading right now! Because this installment finishes up our look at Marvel 1972 with a focus on . . . MONSTERS!

We'll begin, appropriately enough, in the land of monsters, Transylvania! When an American named **Frank Drake** inherited his ancestral castle, he, his fiancee **Joanie**, and his friend **Clifton** flew to Transylvania to look it over. What they didn't know was that Frank had actually inherited THE TOMB OF DRACULA! Exploring the castle, Clifton came across a skeleton with a stake embedded in its chest. And as he removed the stake, **Dracula** lived again! The series was off to a flying start, courtesy of writers **Gerry Conway**, **Archie Goodwin**, and **Gardner Fox**, and artist **Gene Colan**! No sooner had Dracula awakened than he enslaved Clifton and bit Joanie, turning her into a vampire like himself! Frank found himself forced to kill the woman he loved! Realizing the menace Dracula posed, Frank began to hunt his undead ancestor, but he wouldn't have to hunt Dracula alone! He soon met vampire hunter **Rachel Van Helsing** (whose father, **Abraham Van Helsing**, had killed Dracula years

before) and her silent Indian associate, **Taj**. Together, the three vampire hunters battled a variety of deadly vampires created by Dracula and followed the Prince of Darkness through a sorceress' mirror into the past, where they barely stopped him from killing Abraham Van Helsing!

While Dracula was spreading terror in the past, a different sort of terror was plaguing the present, thanks to writer Gerry Conway and artists **Mike Ploog** and **Frank Chiaramonte**. It seems that a young man named **Jack Russell** was cursed—when the moon was full, he became a WEREWOLF BY NIGHT! As though Jack didn't already have enough problems, he also owned an ancient mystical tome, the Darkhold, and he wasn't the only one who wanted it! A mutant gorgon named **Marlene Blackgar** and her evil father wanted the Darkhold, even if they had to kill Jack, his sister **Lissa**, and his friend **Buck** to get it! The trio managed to turn Marlene's power against her, though, and she and her father found themselves turned to stone! With the evil pair safely on display in a museum, it looked as though things might quiet down for a while. But a werewolf's life is anything but quiet! Jack soon wound up fighting the police and a killer shark! And no sooner had he won these battles than he was kidnaped by the mad **Cephalos**, who wanted to use the Werewolf's power for his own purposes! Cephalos couldn't hold the Werewolf for long, though. Jack escaped, and Cephalos tried to flee in a helicopter, but it crashed, putting an end to his evil ways.

Monsters and horror were everywhere in 1972—even in Marvel's new humor magazine SPOOF! The magazine led off with a hilarious parody of the movie based on the classic horror comics published by EC Comics in the 1950's! The issue was rounded out by send-ups of **Tarzan of the Apes** and one of the top television programs of the time, *All In The Family!* Following in the tradition of Marvel's earlier humor series, NOT BRAND ECCH, SPOOF featured the work of some of Marvel's top talents such as writer **Roy Thomas**, penciler **Marie Severin** (whose humorous style is, for many fans, synonymous with NOT BRAND ECCH), and one of the finest artists in comics, **John Severin**! (You have seen John's recent work in SAVAGE TALES and AMAZING HIGH ADVENTURE, haven't you?) All that was missing was Forbush-Man, and that problem would be taken care of in 1973!

And now for the "Oops, we goofed" department:

It seems we made a mistake a few issues back. Some of the wrong issues got mixed in the Marvel Age '71 stack, so when we thought we were reviewing what happened in THOR in 1971, we were really covering what happened in 1972! Nobody out there caught the goof, so sorry, folks, no one gets a no-prize. What we all get is a second chance to look at 1972's THOR. Better late than never.

The God of Thunder spent 1971 facing a series of truly awesome challenges, starting off with one of the greatest menaces ever to threaten Asgard. Scripter **Stan Lee** and penciler **John Buscema** had him face a power rivaling even **Odin's** which was approaching the Golden Realm—a power called **Infinity**! All that Odin knew was that if Infinity had his way, the universe would be destroyed! Accompanied by the mysterious **Silent One**, Odin traveled to the World Beyond to confront Infinity, but became Infinity's slave instead! And when **Thor** followed his father, he nearly met his doom at the hands of **Hela**, the goddess of death! The Silent One sacrificed his life to save Thor, and the Thunder God returned to Asgard to reveal Infinity's true identity! It was no wonder that Infinity was as powerful as Odin, because he was actually a portion of Odin's own power, a portion under Hela's control! Only a

MARVEL COMICS PRICE GUIDE

Some awfully good comics were published in 1972, and if you want to buy some of the issues we talked about in this article, here's what you can expect to pay at your local comics shop. As usual, our source for these prices is *Overstreet's Update #4*, the latest update of Robert M. Overstreet's *The Comic Book Price Guide #15*. Remember, though, prices may vary, and they should be even lower for copies in fair or poor condition.

	Conditions:		
	Good	Fine	Mint
SPOOF			
2		25	50
THOR			
183–192, 194	25	75	1.50
193 (52 pages, Silver Surfer app.)	85	2.50	5.00
TOMB OF DRACULA			
1	85	2.50	5.00
2–5	30	90	1.80
WEREWOLF BY NIGHT			
1	35	1.00	2.00
2		40	80

last ditch effort by Thor managed to free Odin, and the All-Father reclaimed his lost power, thus ending the menace of Infinity. The story was an epic saga, made all the more memorable by Stan's crisp writing and John's power-packed pencils (and as any AVENGERS reader knows, John's still going strong today)! Although this war had been won, the battle was still far from over! Angered by her failure to defeat Odin, Hela decided to take Thor's life in revenge! Odin tried desperately to save his son, finally resorting to slaying the goddess of death herself! But with death gone, Earth was plagued by overpopulation and smothered by innumerable insects! Thor realized that this could not be allowed to continue, so he asked Odin to restore Hela, even though it would mean his own death. When Hela revived, she prepared to kill the God of Thunder, and the **Lady Sif** pleaded with her to spare Thor for the sake of Sif's love. Hela was moved by Sif's touching plea, and she allowed Thor to live. Again, all seemed well, but when the Asgardians returned home, they discovered that **Loki** had stolen the all-powerful Odin-Ring and had seized the throne of Asgard! Loki used the ring's power to create the unstoppable **Durok the Demolisher** to destroy Thor, and for a while, it looked like Durok would succeed! Even Thor couldn't defeat the rampaging juggernaut! But thanks to Thor's old ally (and occasional foe) **the Silver Surfer**, Durok was transported into the distant future, where he could harm no one but himself. Even with Durok gone, though, Loki still ruled Asgard! And as long as he was armed with Odin's power, no one could defeat him! Ironically, it turned out to be the power itself which caused Loki's downfall. He hadn't realized that no one but Odin could contain such power! Loki had to relinquish the power before it killed him! Once Odin had recovered his ring, he banished Loki from the Golden Realm, but as we've already seen, it wouldn't be long before Loki would return to trouble Thor yet again!

And that about wraps it up for this installment. Next time, we'll turn the spotlight on Marvel 1973 as we look at the transformation of **the Beast**, the return of a **Captain** named **Mar-Vell**, and one of the greatest battles in Marvel history— the **Avengers-Defenders War**!

—Shelly Fisch

LETTERS COLUMN OF THE MONTH CLUB

Send your letters to MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, c/o Marvel Comics Group, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, New York, 10016

Well, hi there! Our title this time around was sent in by *Nathan Strum* of Seattle, WA, and we've got to say, it's a peach. Consider yourself a charter member of the club, Nate!

And as long as we're on the subject, as we usually are at the start of one of these lettercols, it behooves us to mention that anyone out there who's got a suggestion for a title for the MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE Letters Page, is encouraged to send it in! Sure, it's not like getting your face on Mount Rushmore, but it's a chance to see your idea in print, and to become a permanent part of Marvel history. So c'mon, dudes, get those cards and letters in!

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

I want to express my commendation for the fine job you did on the April 86 issue's *Mutant Report*, *Life Isn't Easy For The Misfits*.

Marvel has always been creative with its characters and stories. And THE MISFITS Limited Series just might be the icing on the cake. Using teenage mutants as a metaphor for adolescence is ingenious. That, the preview, and the upcoming Limited Series could help many young people, "misfits," going through the adolescent stage and, I hope, prevent some teenage suicides.

Thank you, Marvel, for being the most helpful, interesting and creative comics group around

Eric Gray
329 Gatewater Ct. #103
Glen Burnie, MD 21061

And thank you, *Eric*. It's great to hear that you've got such confidence in us. *Jo Duffy* and *Kerry Gammill* are overjoyed with your letter.

We'd like to take this opportunity to point out, however, in case you didn't notice it in the MARVEL AGE ANNUAL, that THE MISFITS is now entitled THE FALLEN ANGELS.

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

I would like to complain about **Fred Hembeck's** page in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #38. First of all, the **Human Torch** in my opinion is a great hero. It says that the Torch was not put in the FF cartoons because kids might idolize him and set themselves on fire. Well, why is **Firestar** in the SPIDER-MAN AND HIS AMAZING FRIENDS cartoons? Isn't anybody worried that someone might idolize Firestar and set themselves on fire?

Bart Leatherman
Route 4 Box 11-A
Vale, NC 28168

Hey, don't blame Fred, *Bart*. That is why the Human Torch wasn't included in the FANTASTIC FOUR cartoons.

As far as Firestar's being in SPIDER-MAN AND HIS AMAZING FRIENDS, well, maybe the network people changed their minds, or maybe, since she doesn't burst into flame like the Torch does, kids wouldn't be inspired to immolate themselves by her super-stunts.

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

This letter is not to guess who a mysterious new member is, or to ask to see an uncovered picture of **Howard Mackie's** face, to ask to know what **Mark Evanier** does on GROO or any of those burning questions. It is about a character you've been giving a lot of space to lately. No . . . it's not **the Scourge**. It's . . . **Brother Voodoo**! Why are you picking on him? Why are you giving him so much flak all of a sudden? From what I've seen of him he seems like a good character. Why don't you give him a Limited Series? Or a one-shot? A cameo appearance? Anything!! Please take this letter seriously.

Jason Crawe
6221 Balderstone Dr.
San Jose, CA 95120

Is this dump on Fred Hembeck month, or what? Seriously, *Jason*, the reason Fred keeps bringing Brother Voodoo up in his feature is because Fred really and genuinely likes Brother Voodoo. No one would be happier than he if B.V. got his own mini-series. In fact, Fred wants to write it!

And who knows? If Fred keeps reminding us about B.V. in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, maybe you and he will get your wish, and Brother Voodoo will rise again!

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

Today when I went to my local comic book shop, as I was flipping through the latest issue of ALPHA FLIGHT I came across the advertisement about "Scourge," the baddie-killer who's been running around killing super villains for the past year or so. And as I read down the list of villains on the page I couldn't find **the Phone Ranger** (you know, the guy you introduced and then supposedly killed in the MARVEL AGE ANNUAL). Well, I thought, here's my chance at a coveted no-prize!

So here's my explanation: When Scourge shot the Dialtone Dynamo he didn't quite kill him. The Phone Ranger would have died in seconds however, had **the Beyonder** not been there. The Beyonder, who witnessed the attempted murder, felt pity for the ol' Receiver-Slinger and repaired his wounds. The reason this was not printed in the ANNUAL itself was because **Bill, Dwight, Kurt** and **Jim** were so busy dodging super-villains and heroes that they didn't see the Beyonder fix the Tsar of Telecommunications and then send him home.

So is that worth a no-prize? I sure hope so—it would be the greatest thrill this Marvelite ever had to receive a no-prize *and* have my letter printed!!

'Nuff Said!

Cory L. Koch
9833 Iveland St.
Overland, MO 63114

'Nuff indeed, *Cory*. Your no-prize is on its way. So there you go, Phone Ranger-boosters—*Alexander Graham Bell's* favorite super hero isn't disconnected after all! He's back on the line, as it were, determined to let freedom ring for telephones everywhere!

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

Aside from his recent work on ROM, and his current work on INDIANA JONES, what's **Steve Ditko** doing these days? I think the man who co-created, co-plotted, drew and inked the first 38 issues of THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (as well as **Spidey's** very first appearance and an Annual or two) deserves more of the spotlight. Why don't you devote an issue, or at least an article, to this great man? Ever consider letting him draw one last issue of SPIDER-MAN? It's the least you could do for the man who helped create possibly the best known super hero on Earth. Could you let him know I wrote this letter and tell me what he said? And finally, ever consider bringing back the M.M.M.S.?

Until Peter Parker has no more troubles, make mine Marvel!

Jim Garrison
Los Angeles, CA

Steve Ditko can draw a SPIDER-MAN story any time he wants to, Jim. The thing is, he doesn't want to. He feels he's said his piece as far as Spidey goes, and would prefer to work on other characters.

As far as the "spotlight" goes, Steve is a very private person, and would prefer to avoid most publicity, and to let his work speak for itself, something it does very nicely.

And where will his work be speaking next? Well, how about CHUCK NORRIS AND HIS KARATE KOMMANDOS, the new Star Comic written by *Jo Duffy* and inked by *Ken Steacy*? Don't miss it, Ditko-philes!

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

I have never written before, though I have felt the urge to. I am not your average reader. I am a thirty-two year old mother of two. I have until recently partly owned a comics shop and will take this time to congratulate you on HEROES FOR HOPE and the SPIDER-MAN AND POWER PACK Child Abuse Comic. Our store handed out many of both.

I love children and have always been pleased with the fine underlying morals and outlooks on life which were in Marvel's comics—nothing so obvious as to frighten authority-shy teens but there nonetheless.

I am a liberal person with an open mind and I certainly do not object to the orgy scene in ELFQUEST or the nudity and foul language in MOONSHADOW or others like that.

I have always admired **the Vision** and **the Scarlet Witch** because of their close and wonderful relationship. The Vision was so gentle and loving. It was nice to see a man who was not afraid to be those things. When I picked up THE VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH #9, I was very disillusioned. The Witch must be a far better woman than I. What a terrible scene! Only a comic written completely by men would think a pregnant woman would appreciate the Vision's compliments toward **the Enchantress**. "That was nice of you, Vision—to reassure her about her looks!" Give me a break!

The excuse about him "being human" is saying that it's perfectly all right for a man or woman to fall into another's arms, play around, kiss, then say "This man (or woman) loves you!" and everything will be fine, "Because . . . I'm human!"

Come on, guys! You can do better than that. I have faith in you.

By the way, I believe I may be the only one in Yarmouth who guessed who the unknown new member of **X-Factor** was. I told everyone who came into the store my ideas and no one agreed with me. I even guessed how it happened and that **the Phoenix** and **Jean Grey** were not one person. I've never been more proud than when I got ahold of FANTASTIC FOUR #286 and saw for sure. It was an excellent plot and well done. Unfortunately, I personally am very disappointed with X-FACTOR. It's not up to its fanfare!

Compliments on MOONSHADOW, ELFQUEST, SIX FROM SIRIUS, PETER PARKER, FANTASTIC FOUR and AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. I also loved THE PUNISHER, LONGSHOT and FIRESTAR. Keep up the great work! Yours till Tigra is spayed.

Janice Paddock
No Address on Letter

We feel we have to point out that the Vision was under a *spell* when he was "fooling around" with the

Enchantress in that story, and had no real choice in the matter. The dialogue you mention pointed out the Vision's incredible (and praiseworthy) honesty, and showed that the Vision and the Scarlet Witch's relationship is strong enough to survive the fact that the Vision finds another woman attractive (just as the Scarlet Witch is honest enough not to deny that she has found, and probably still finds, *Hercules*, *Captain America* and *Wonder Man* attractive). Despite the fact that they think other people are good-looking (if they didn't, don't you think there'd be something wrong with them?), it's each other they love, and that's what matters.

Thanks for an interesting and heartfelt letter.

Dear fellow Marvelites,

I've been collecting comics for a short two years and I already know a few comics artists and colorists. I still wonder, how do you keep thinking up new characters and powers?

Chris Dyhall
1598 Tollhouse Lane
Clovis, CA 93612

Well, *Chris*, we'll admit—it's a trick.

Dear Madcap Men at Mighty Marvel,

I know what the New Universe is! At least I think I do. My theory is that you will be using the universe created by the late Beyonder's power conduit to develop a new multiverse. I also predict that the Beyonder will not have truly died. Let me explain: During the process of becoming mortal, he had not yet poured his being into the body, since it was still only a child. He was still just made of energy. Therefore, when the power conduit's energy was released and a universe was created, the Beyonder (being the sum of all that energy, thus the sum of the universe) will have become an entity like our own **Eternity**. Will our universe discover this new one? If so, who will be the first to do it? How will it affect the Marvel Universe? Is what I think even right? Does anybody even care what I think? Only time will tell, so, till **Thor** gets a crew cut, MAKE MINE MARVEL!!

Jesse Mainardi
308 Chestnut St.
Haddonfield, NJ 08033

Intriguing thoughts, *Jesse!* To which we can only add: No comment.

Dear Sirs,

As a concerned parent and citizen, I must protest the use of **Forbush-Man**. The influence he may have on children is dangerous. In order to emulate him, some children could be tempted to destroy perfectly good cookware. It is shocking but true. A week ago, I came home from a PTA meeting and found my son wearing a welder's mask. He was about to cut two eye holes in my best saucepan with a crudely made torch. I always knew he was smart, but making the gas stove into a cutting device surprised me. He claimed he wanted to play **Forbush-Man**. He showed me a MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE. We of MADCAP (Mothers Against Damaged Cookware And Pottery) only ask you stop using him.

If we don't hear from you by May 1, 1986, we will take legal action. We are presently in touch with **Donahue**. **Joe Franklin** showed a similar interest in our plight.

Emily Lipshitz
Chairperson, MADCAP
58 Avenue of 2 Rivers
Rumson, NJ 07760

Uh-oh. We're in trouble now!

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

Everywhere I go I hear about "dumb Cajuns" living in Louisiana. To be frank, I am not Cajun, and sick of being labeled dumb because I'm from Louisiana (I maintain an overall *B* average). To get to the point, what about having a male super hero from Louisiana *in* Louisiana? New York has over half the super heroes. I know there is one female super heroine (**Captain Marvel**) from New Orleans, but where is she? In New York. How about a group, **the Southern Avengers**? Come on, guys and gals!

Douglas Darnielle
Baton Rouge, LA

If you feel bad, imagine how a Cajun feels, being called dumb all the time like that. Though to be sure, most of the "Cajun-mania" that's recently swept the country has been very complimentary, as we dumb Yankees have been discovering how good Cajun food and Cajun music are.

Oh, and Captain Marvel may be an Avenger, but she still lives in Louisiana. She just commutes fast—at the speed of light, in fact. As for other Louisiana super heroes . . . isn't *Razorback* from Louisiana? Maybe he's still there. And *Crime-Buster*, who operates out of Time Square these days, and is hardly anyone's idea of a role model, is from West Monroe, Louisiana.

Raaaaaar! Roooooowwwwwr! Nnnaaaoooor! Yoooaaarrrr! Rrraaarrrrrr! Snnnnnaaaarrrrrlll! Aaooowww! Rooooaaarrr!!!!!!

[Translation:] Dear Marvel Agers,

We have a definite problem here. I should really hurt you jerks for what you let **Terminus** do to my pad! Things are gonna get dangerous around here unless my best pal **Ka-Zar** gets his title back! Soon. Do I need to roar it twice?! As for you, **Stern**, the only way you'll get me off *your* back is to give me my own pin-up. I'll expect it soon.

Zabu

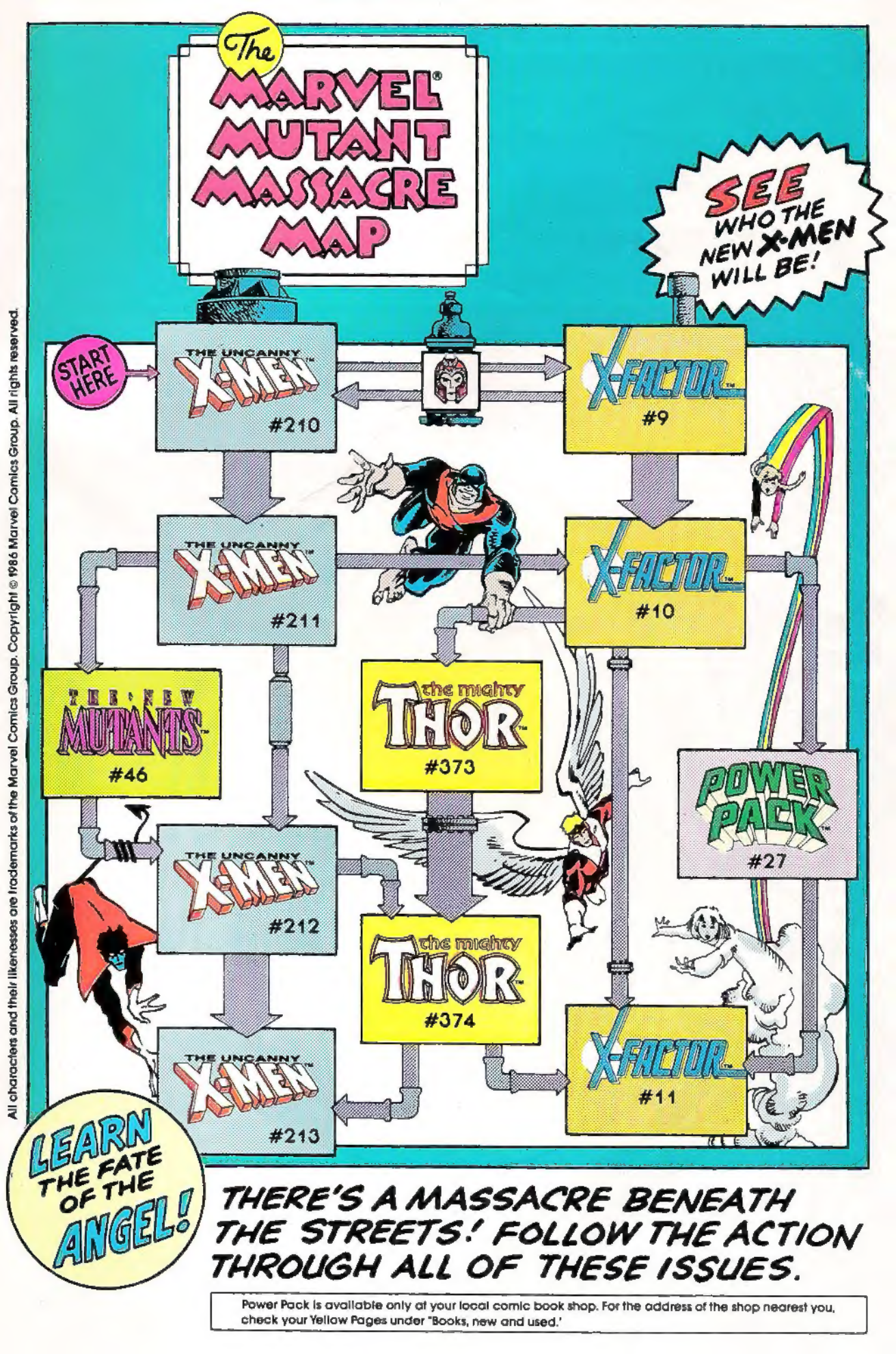
P.S. I would like to thank **Ryan Carstensen** of Brooklyn Center, Minnesota for straightening out my paw prints for me, and making this letter possible. Now hop to it, guys!

Uh-oh! We're in trouble again!

By the way, *Zab'*, Roger promises to give you your very own pin-up if you'll leave him alone. Of course, it's a pin-up of *Morgan Fairchild*, but them's the breaks.

And, with a drum roll you can't hear and equally-silent flourish of trumpets, we come to the end of another MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE. It's been great, and you've been a fabulous audience, we really mean that. No, it's true, you've been swell.

We'll be back next time, and we hope you will be too. Until then, ciao, arriverderci, auf Wiedersehen, and other foreign words meaning goodbye!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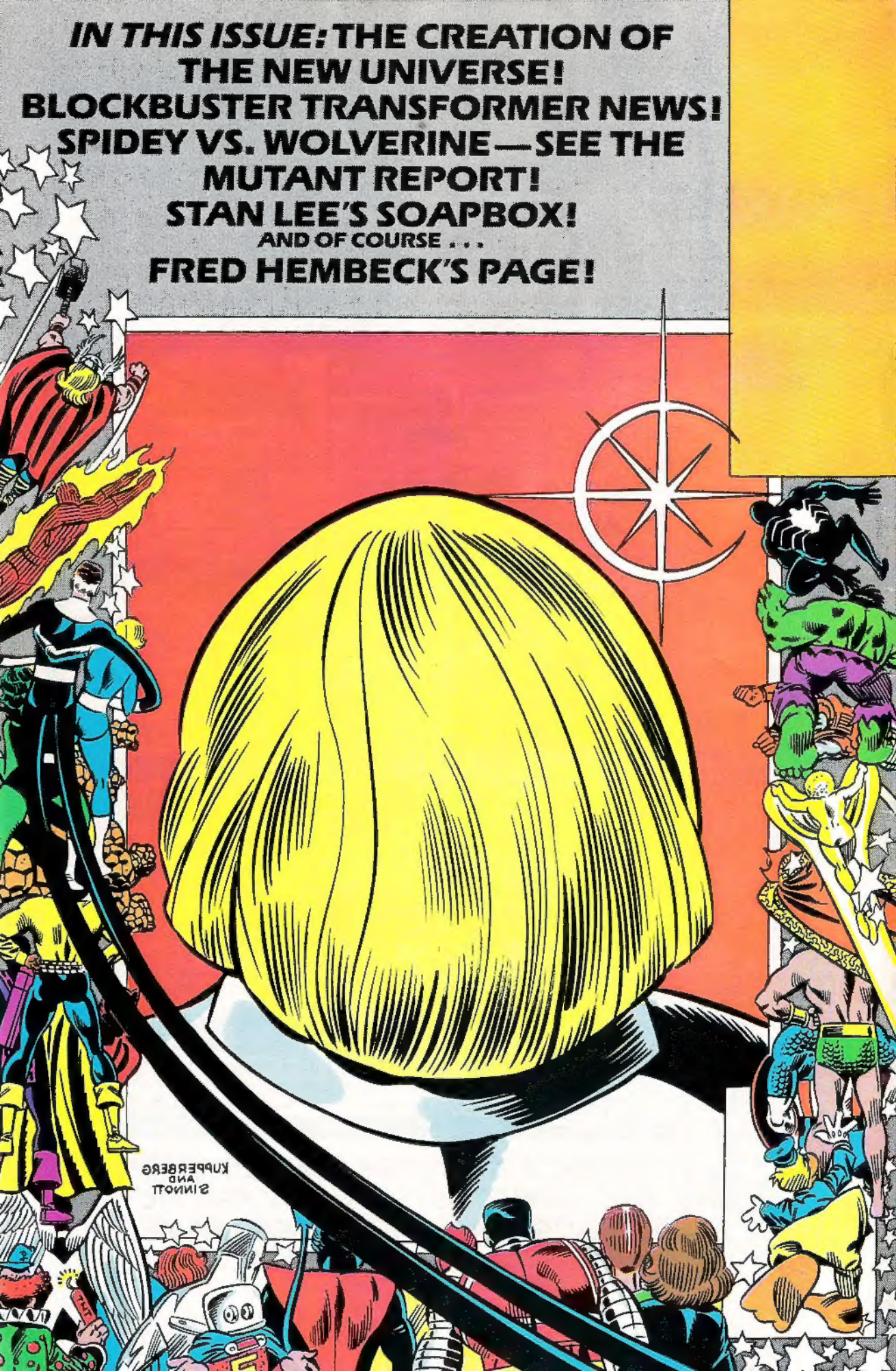
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AND OF COURSE . . .
FRED HEMBECK'S PAGE!
KUPPERBERG AND SINNOTT